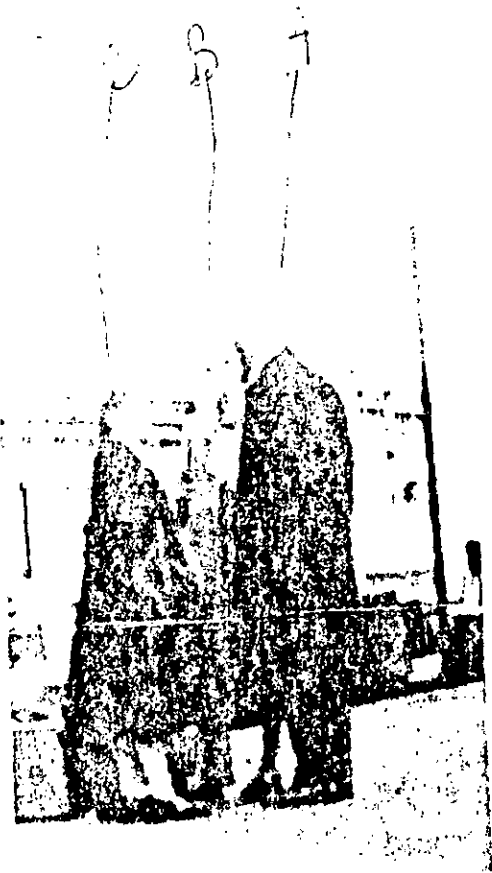




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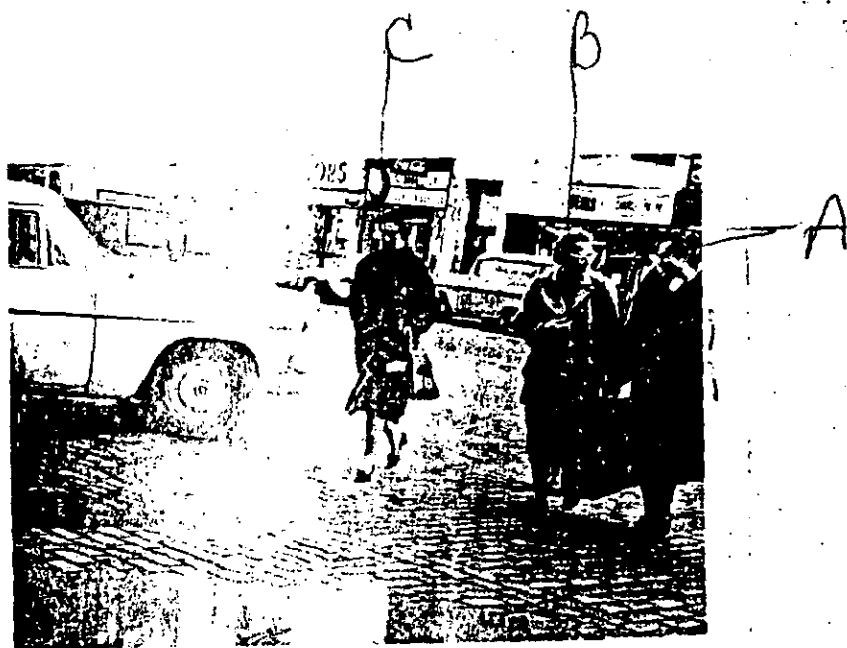


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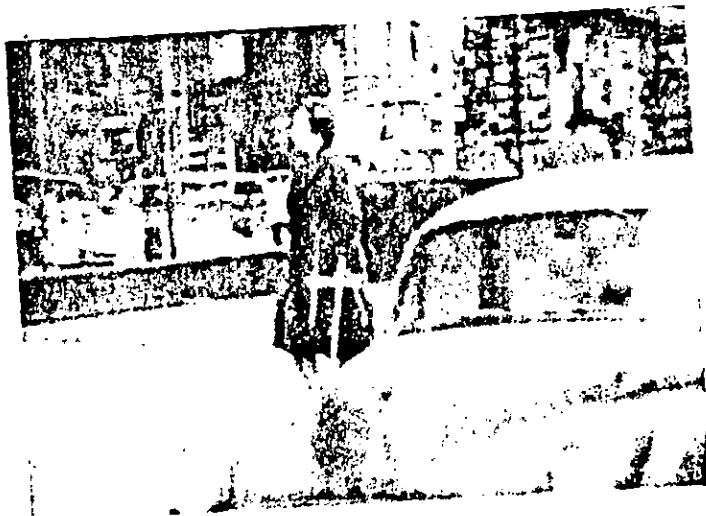
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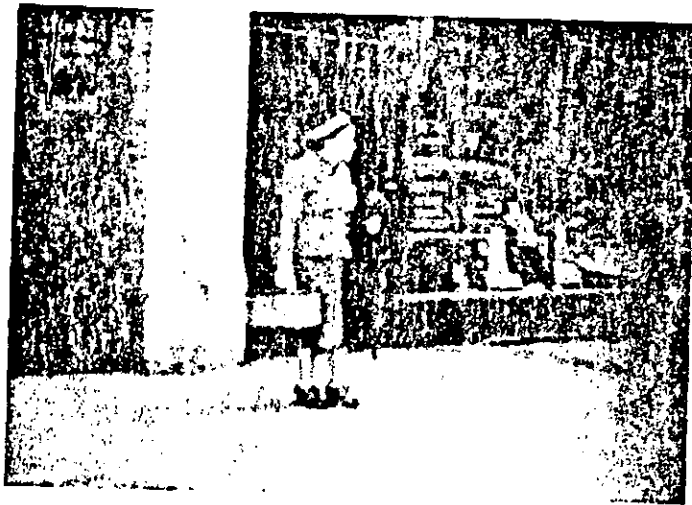
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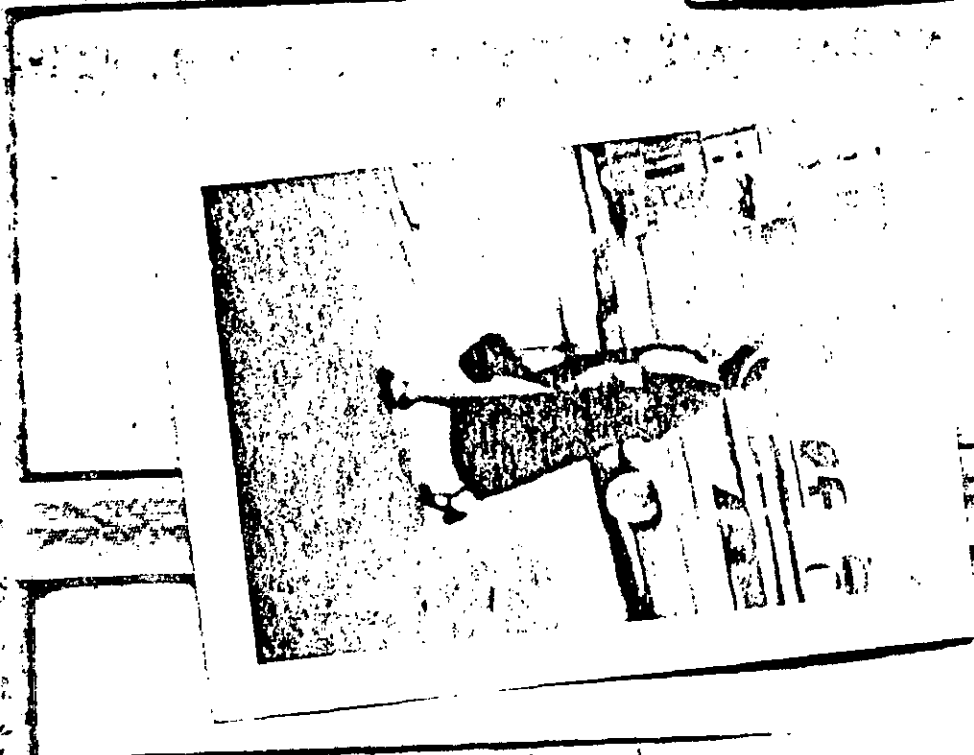
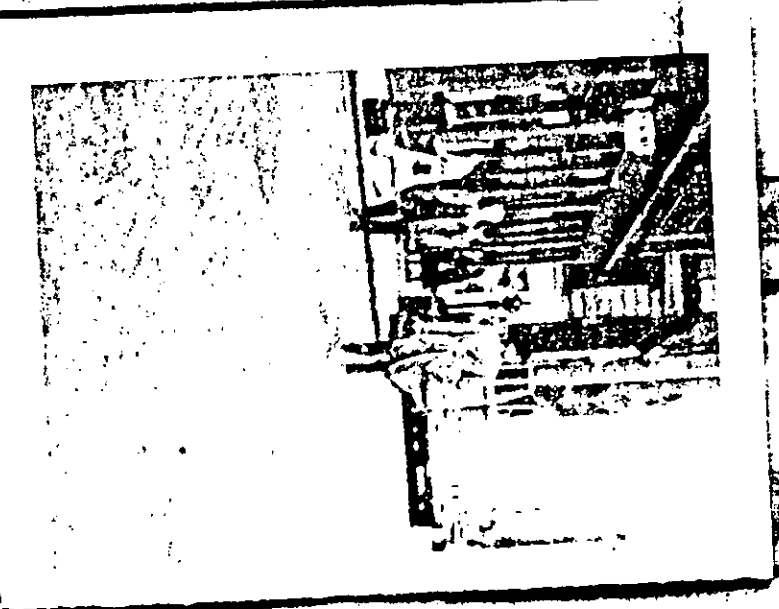
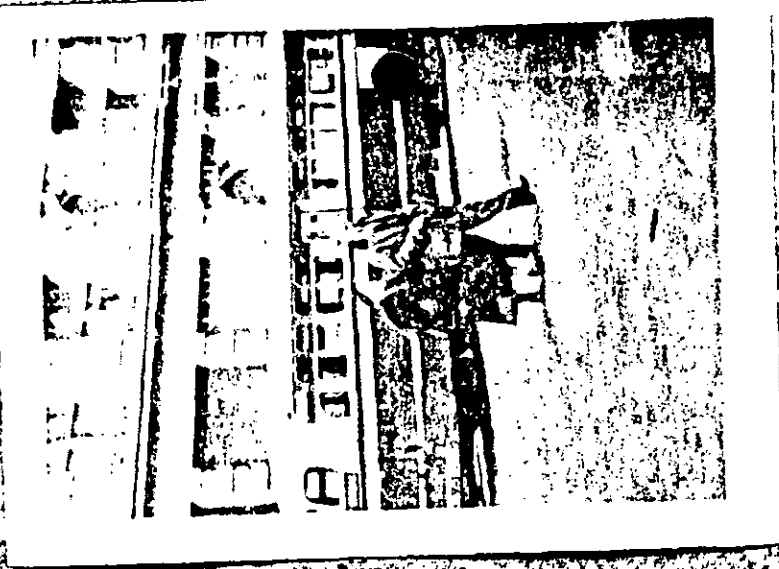
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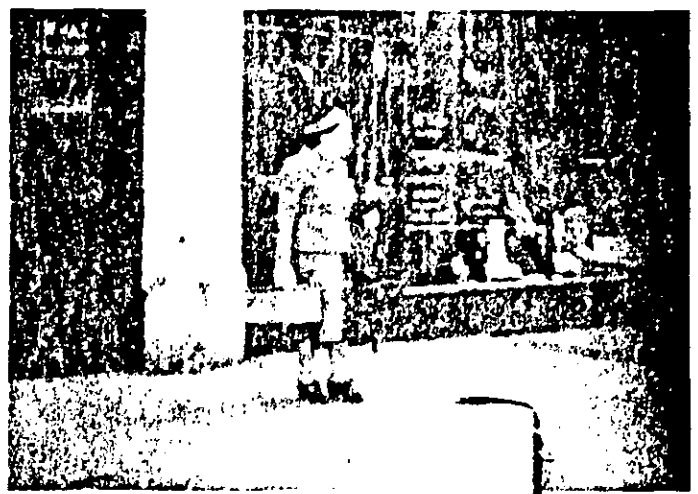


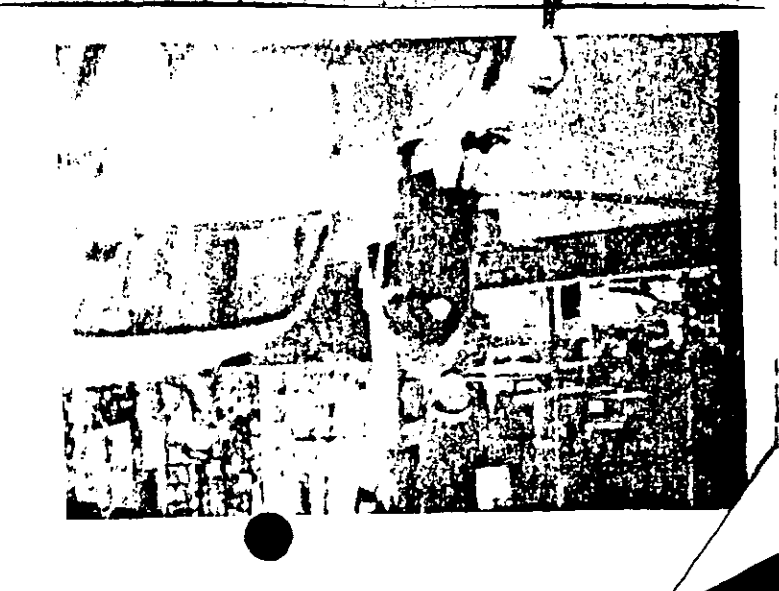
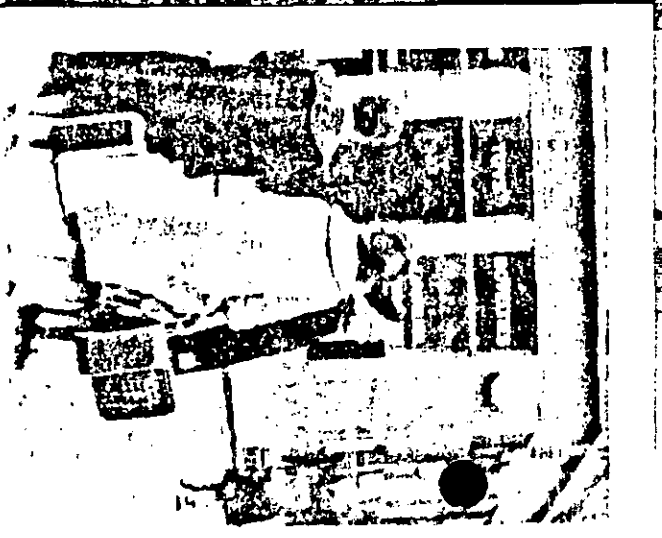
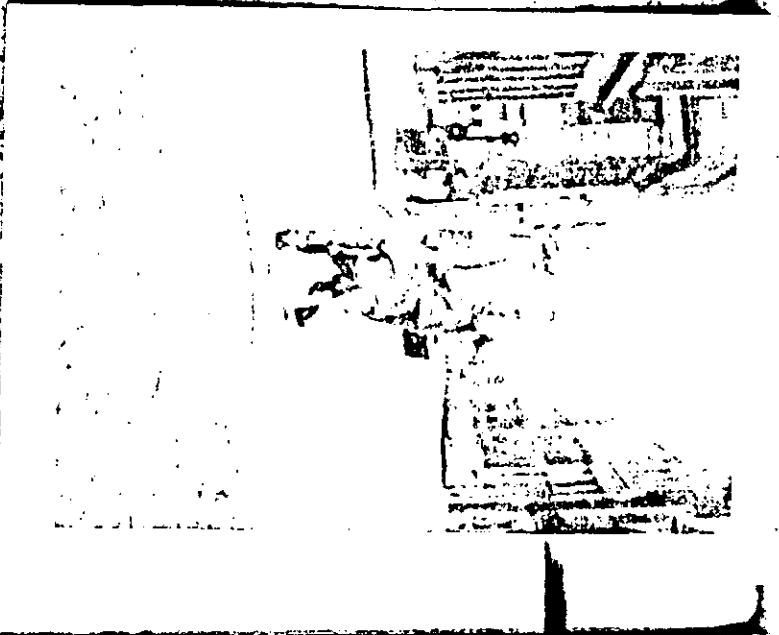
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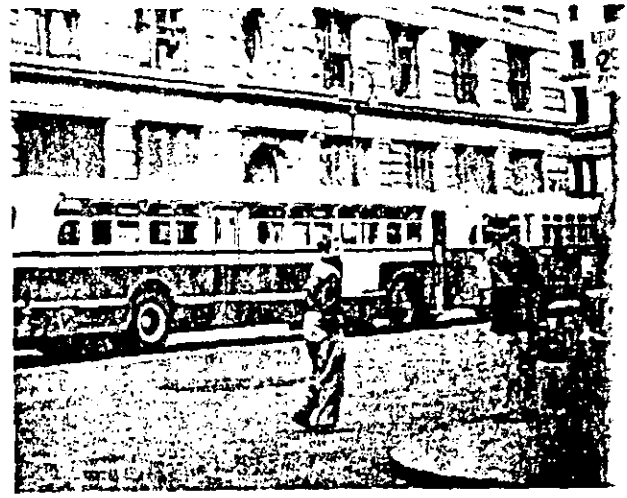
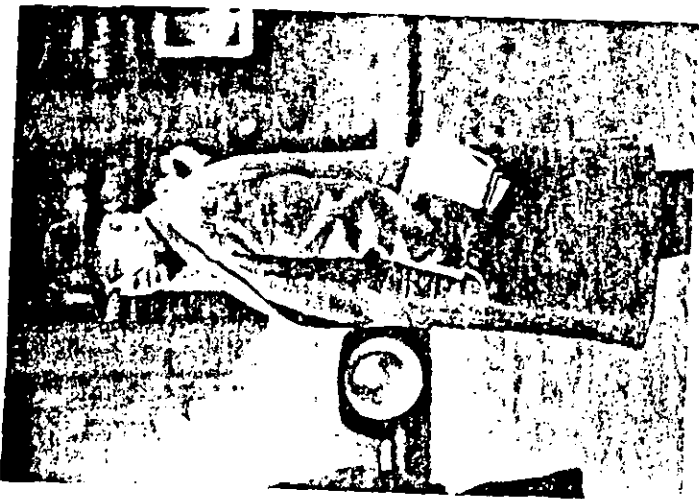
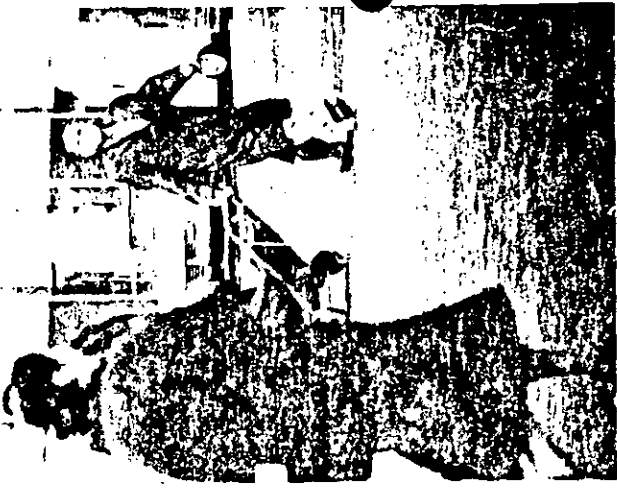


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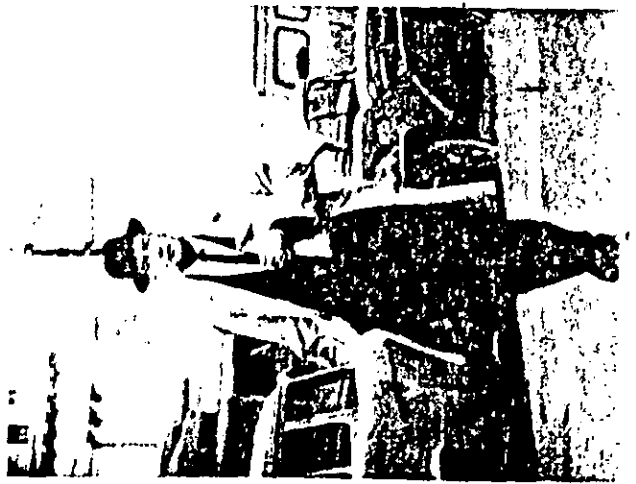
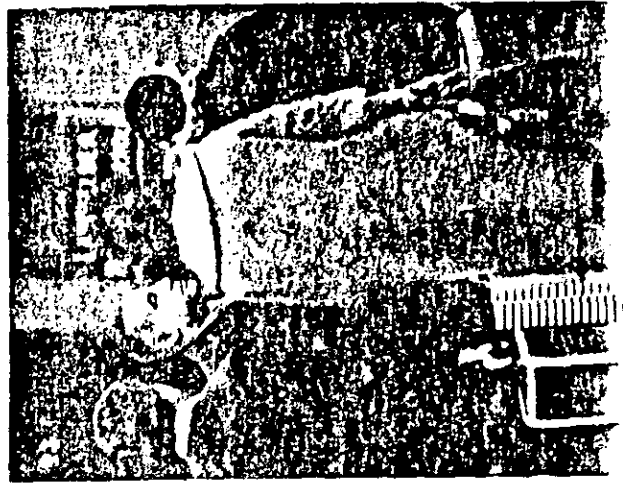
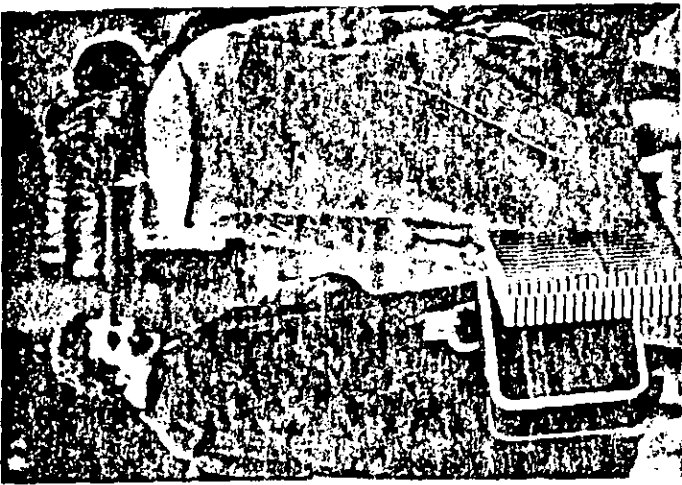




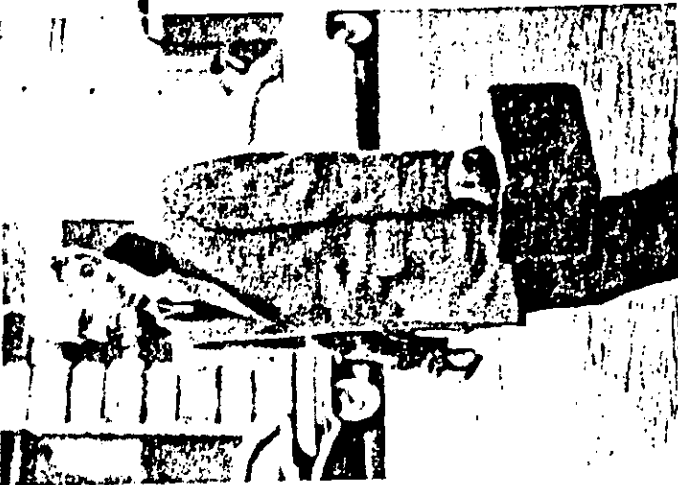
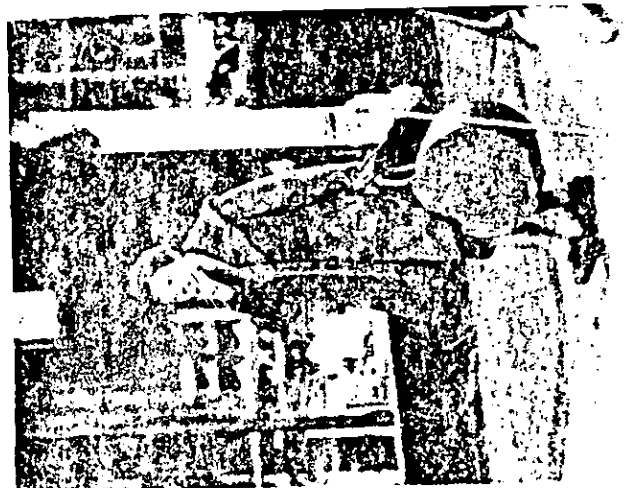
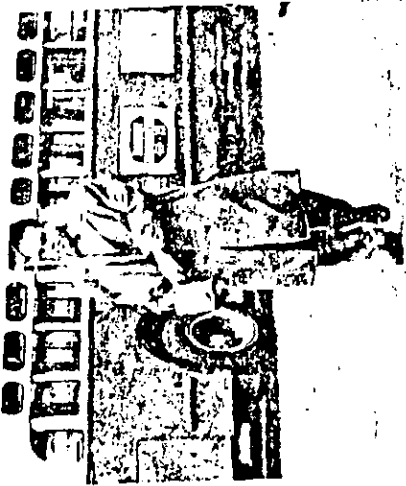
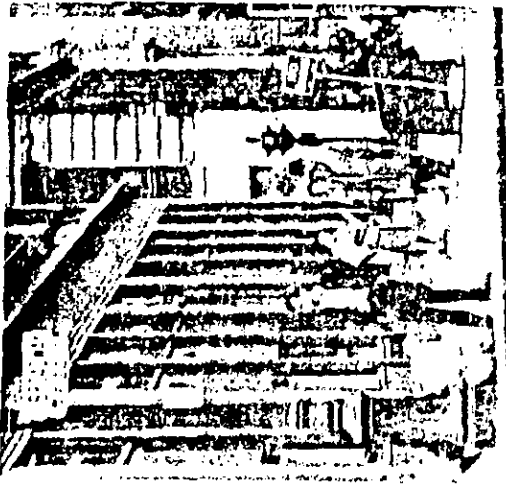


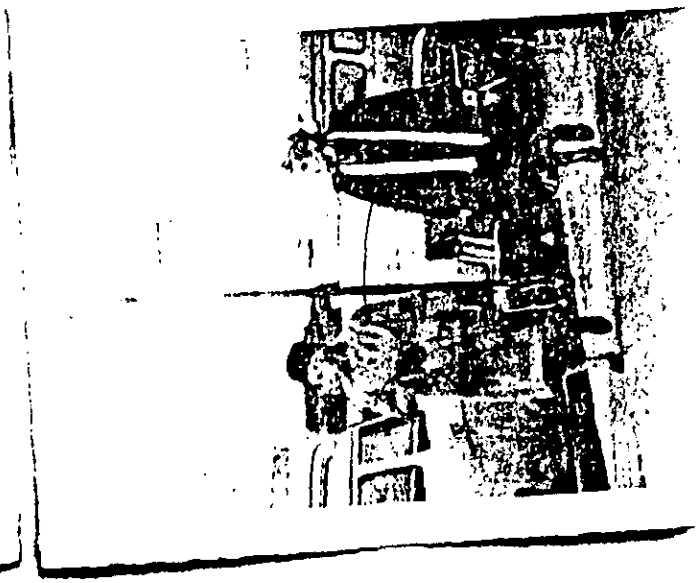
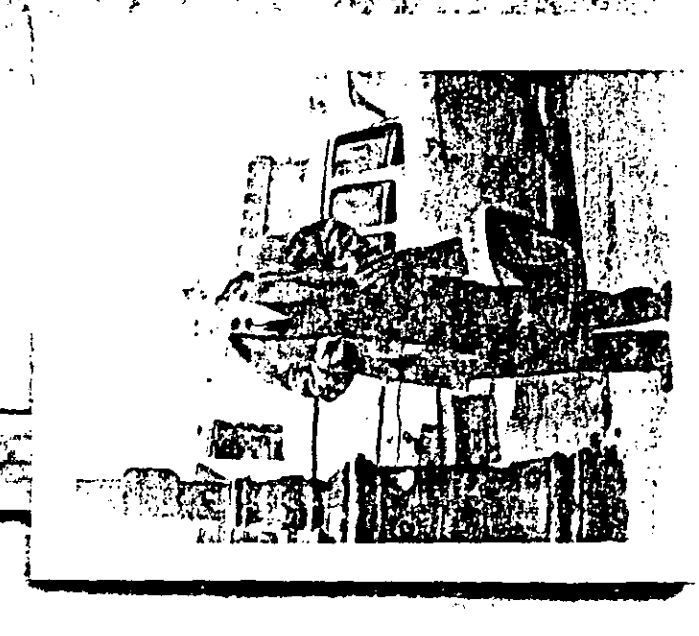
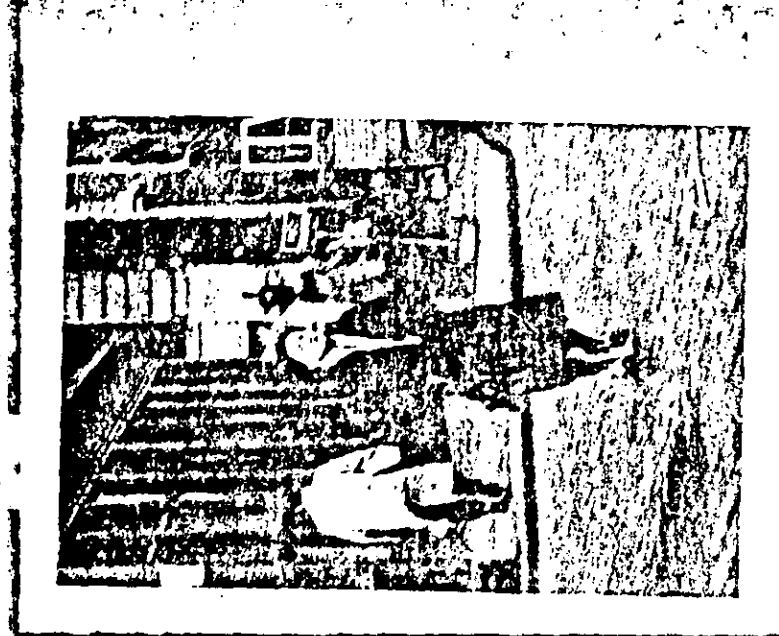
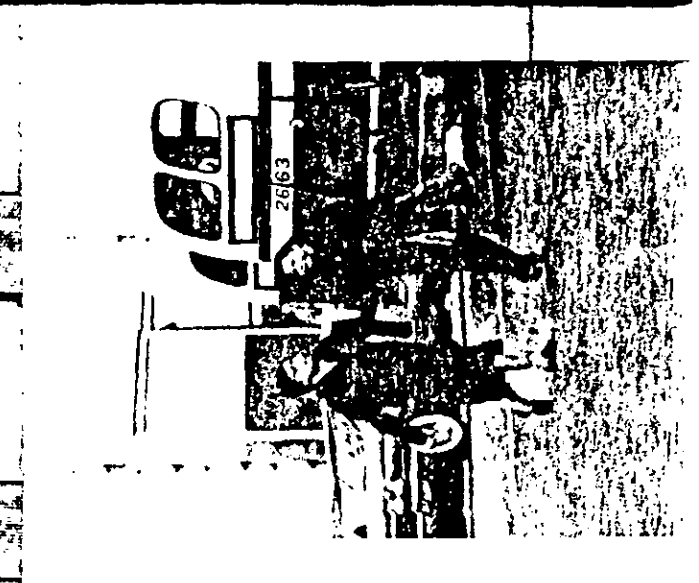
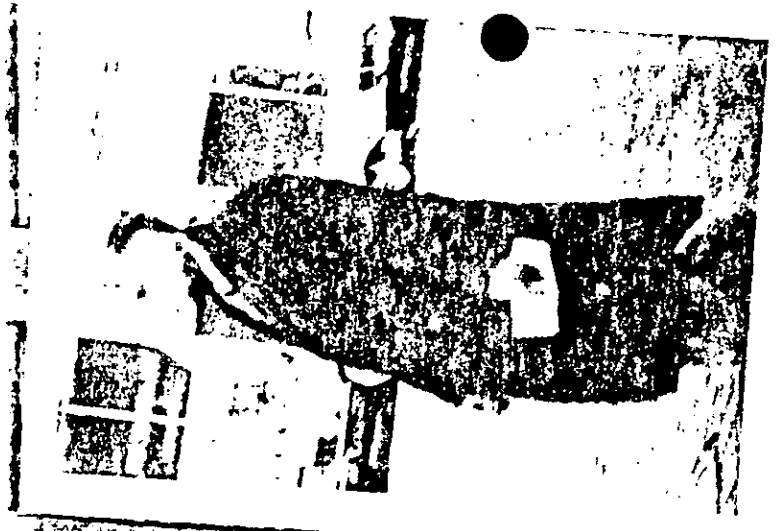


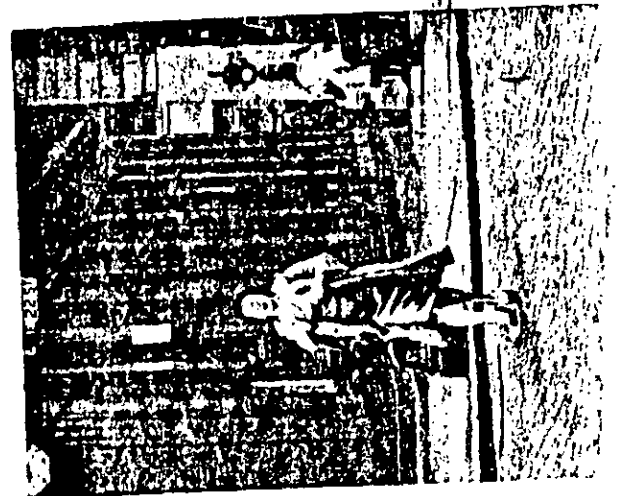
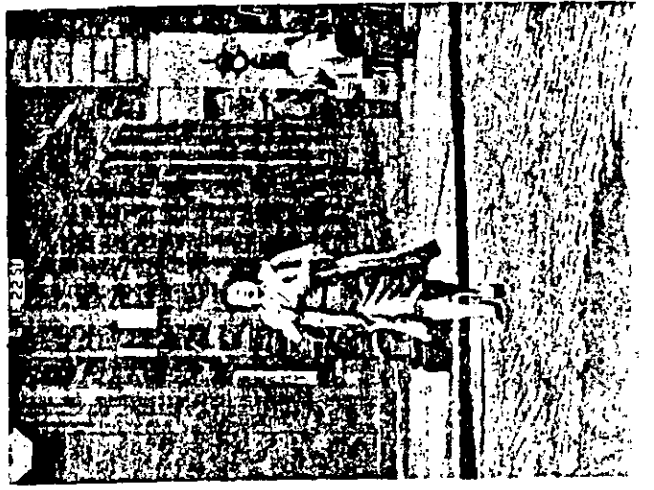
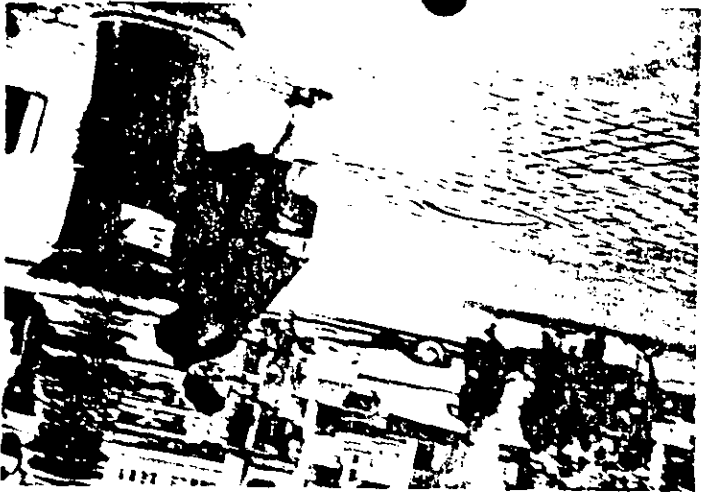


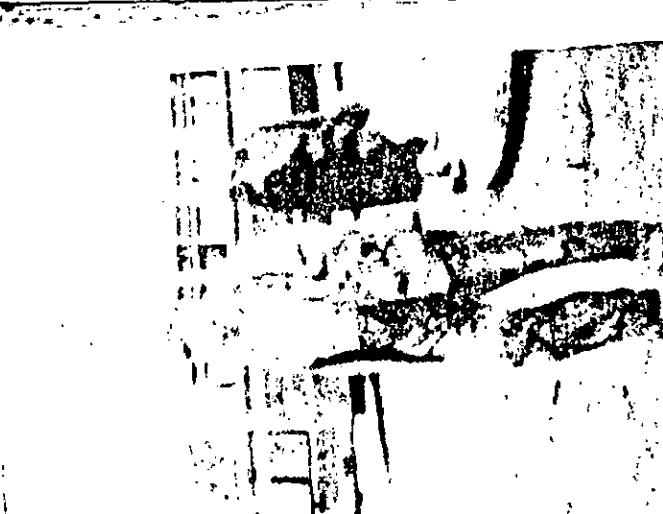
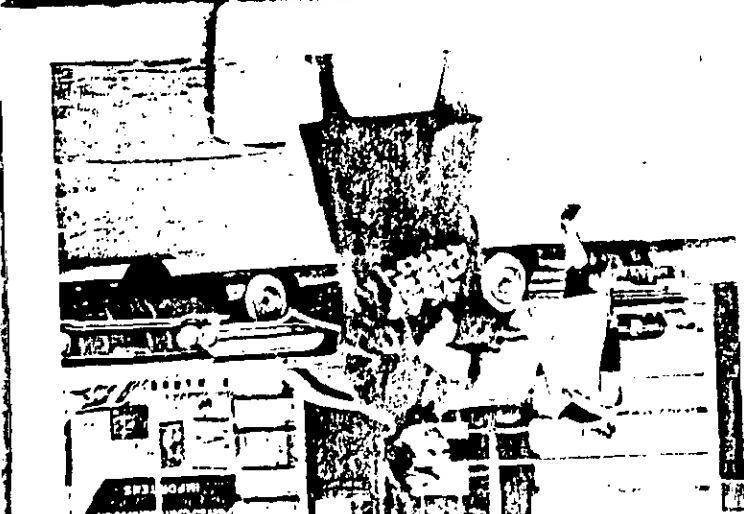
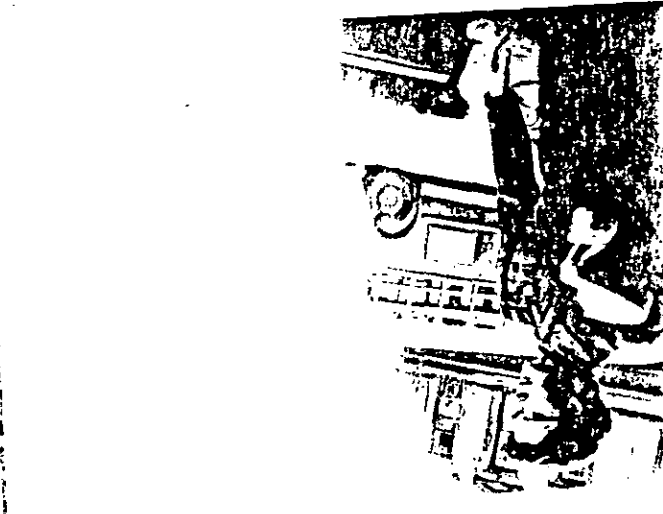
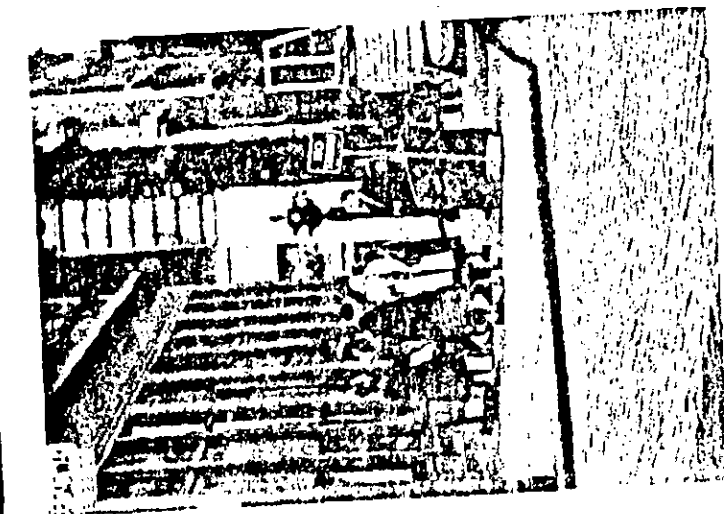
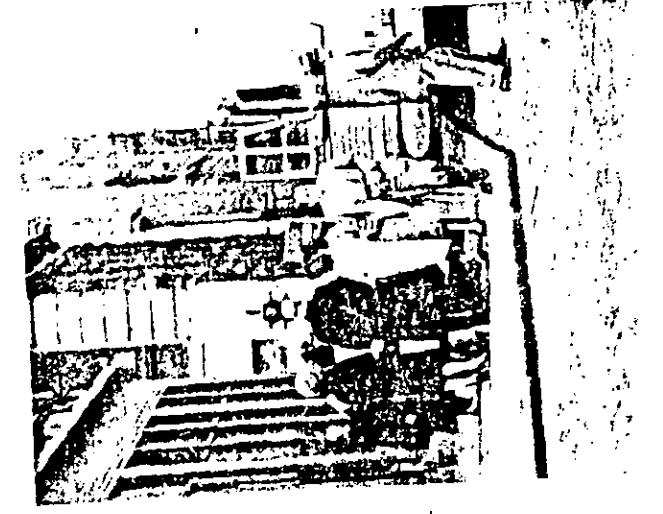
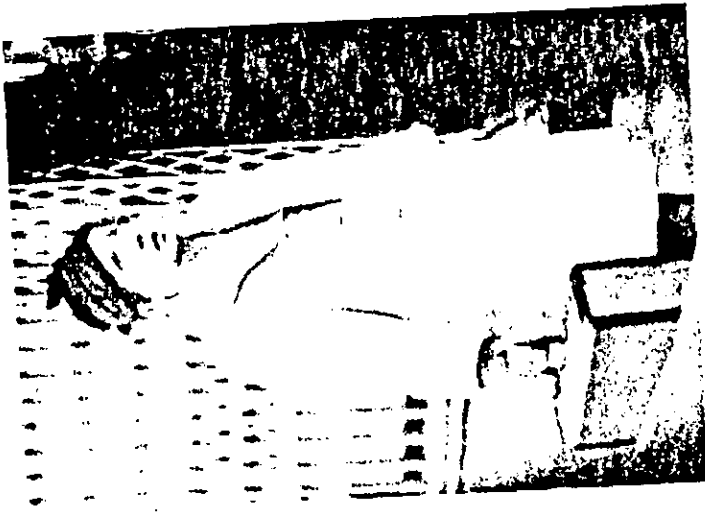
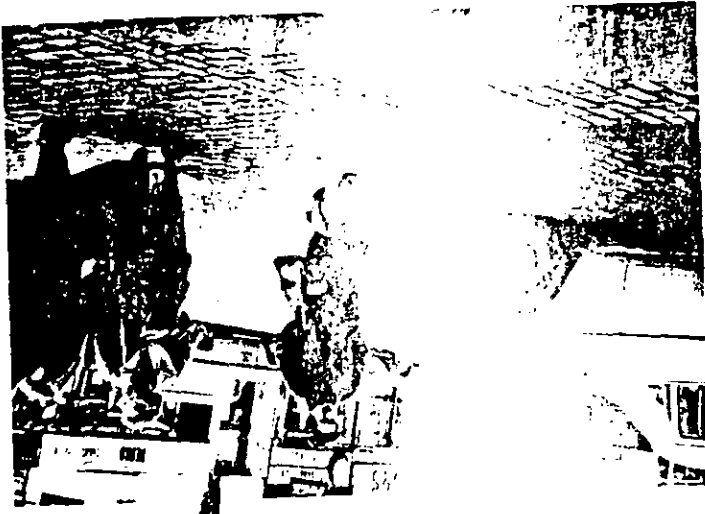




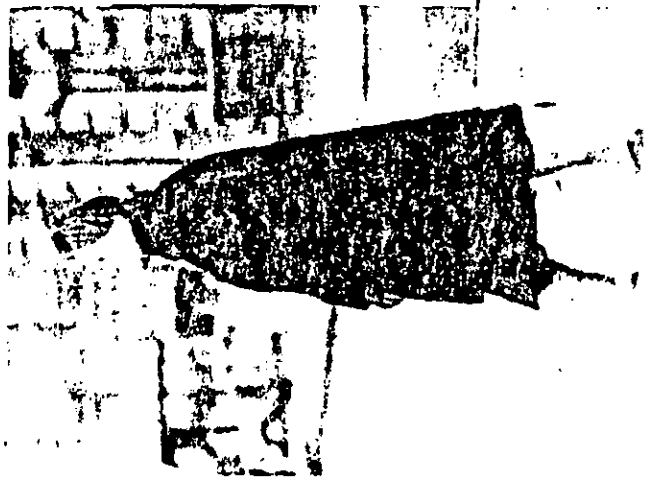
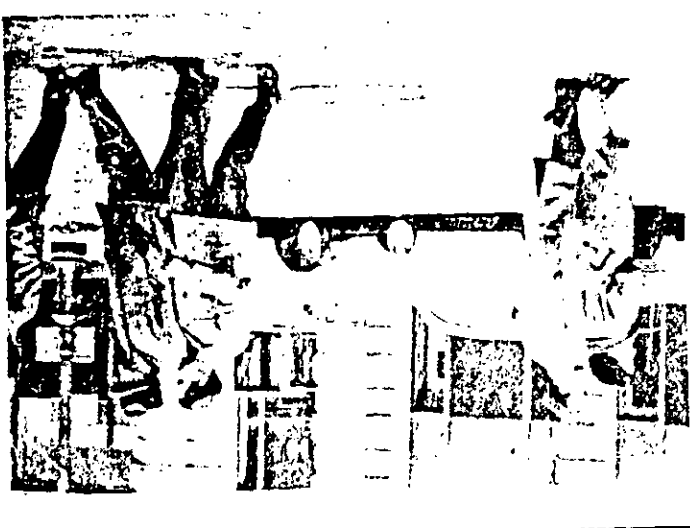
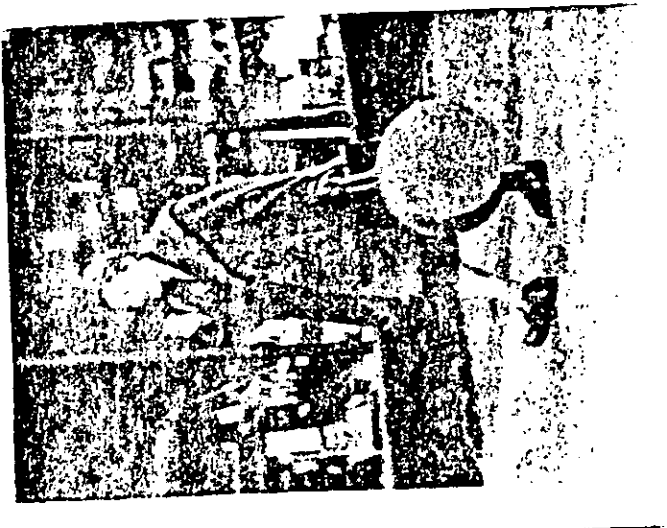
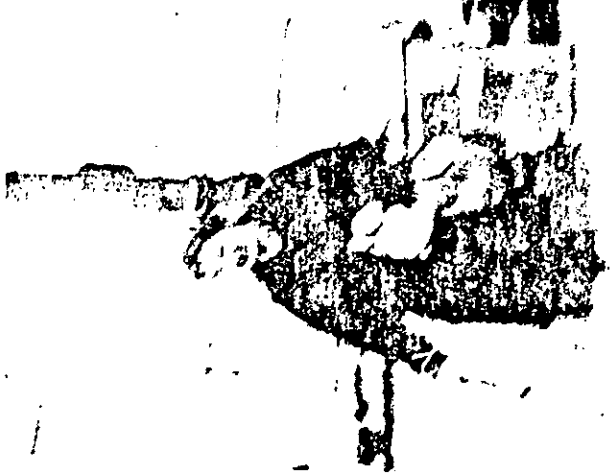




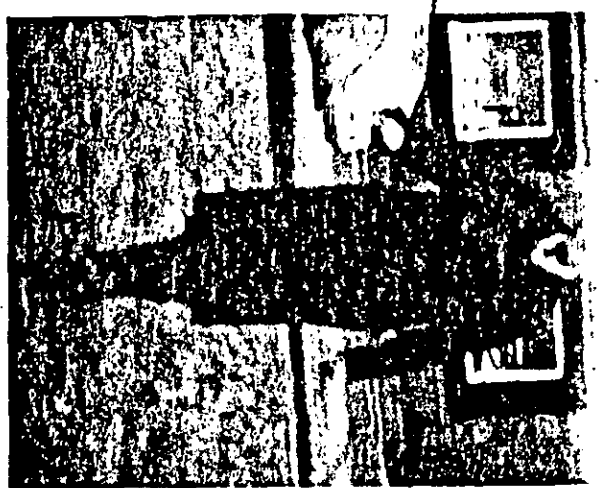
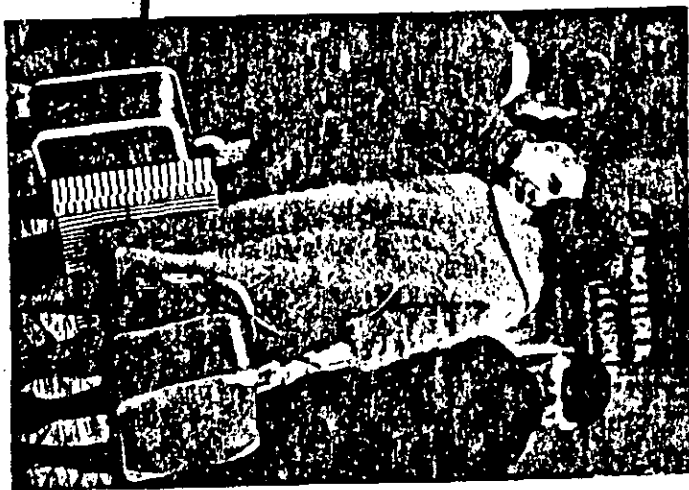
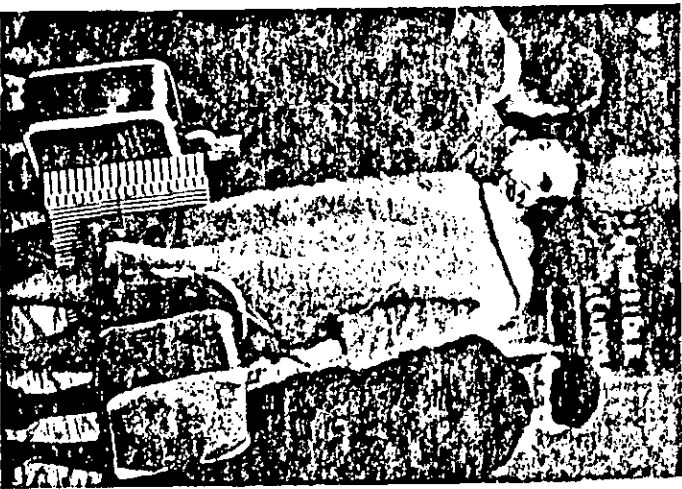
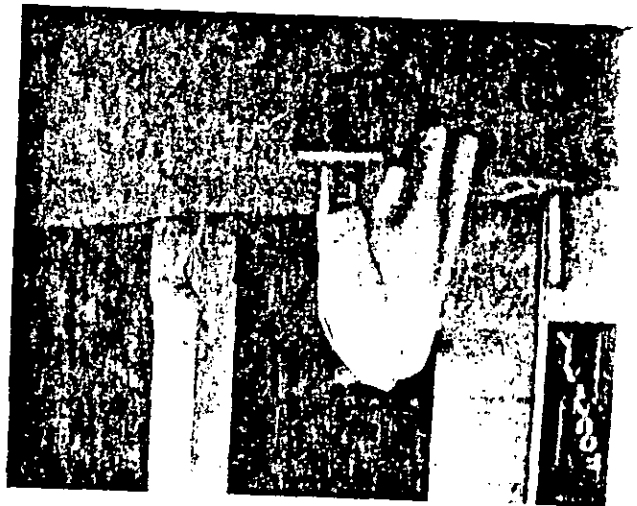
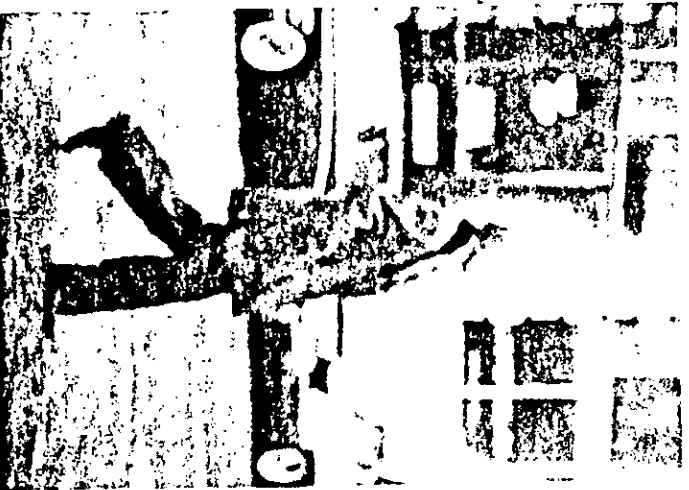
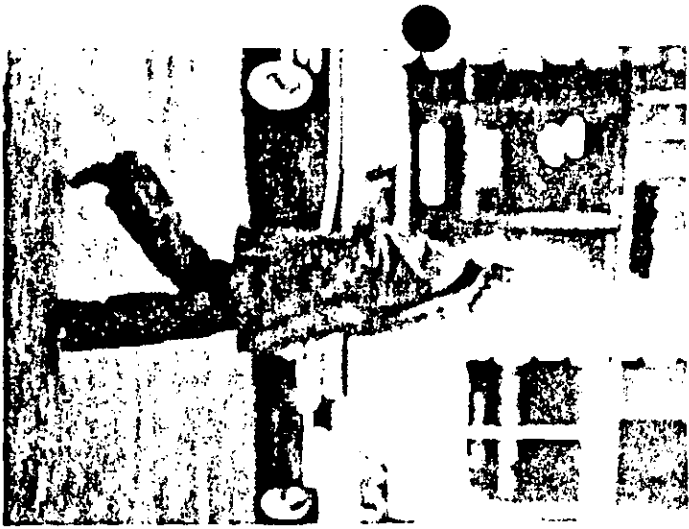


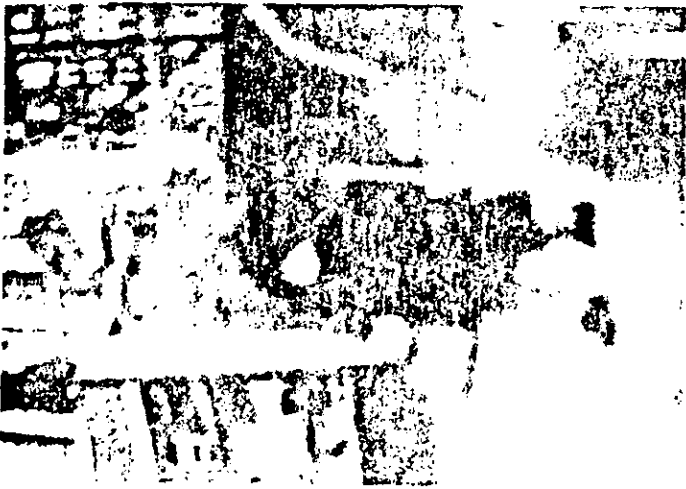




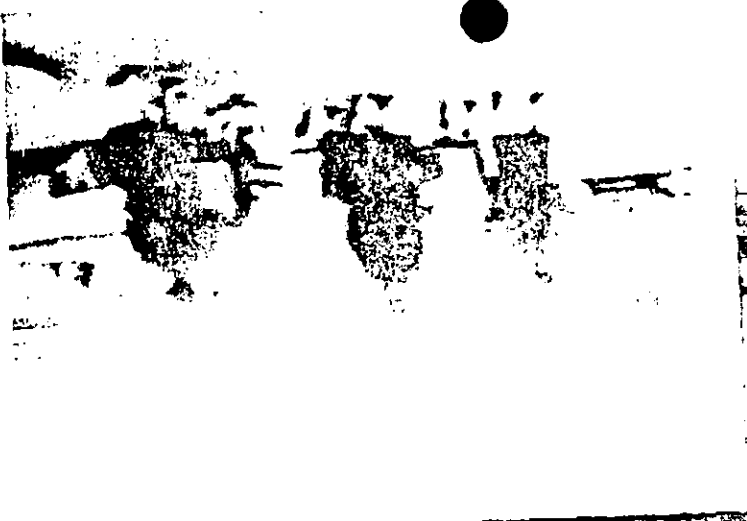


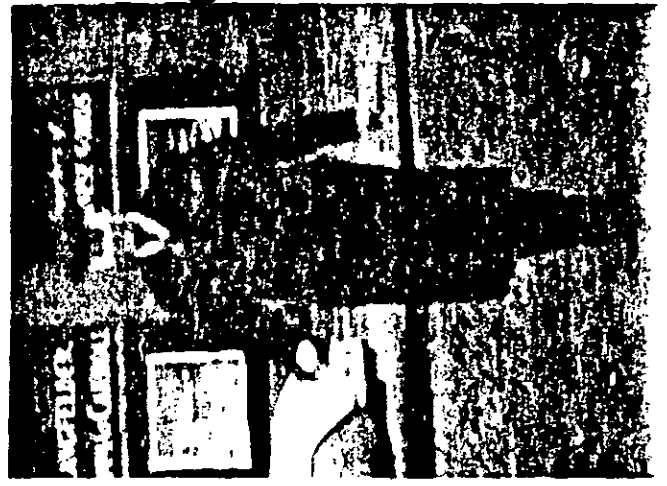


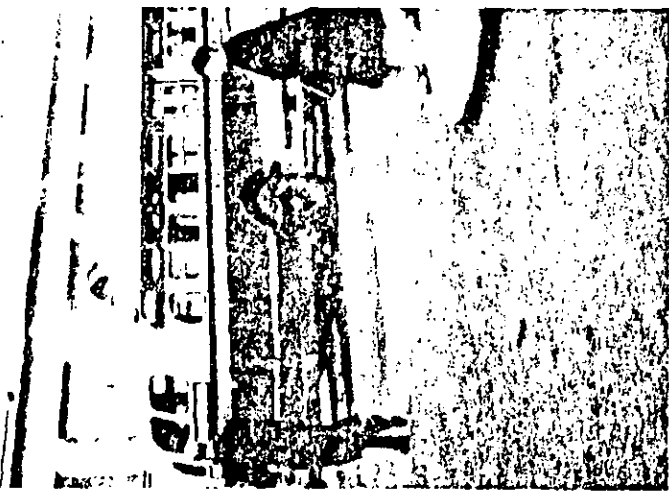
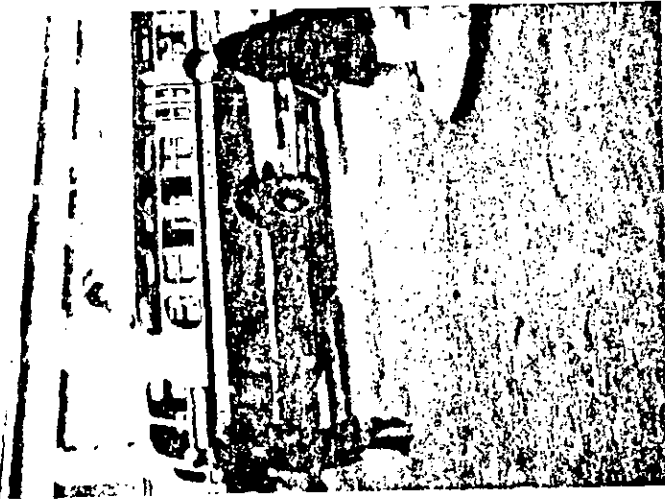
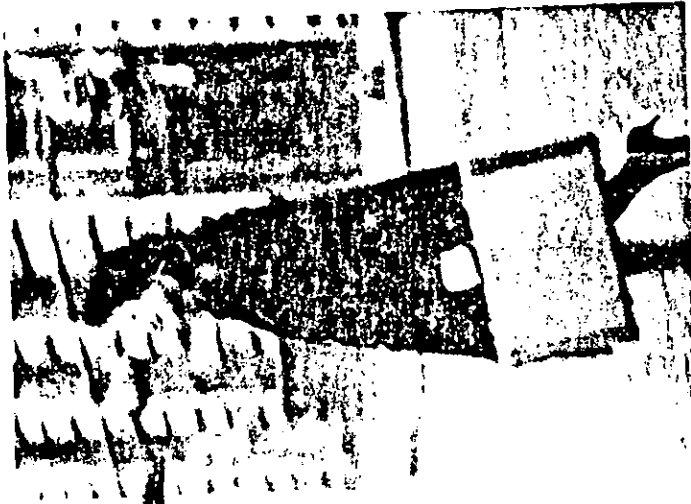


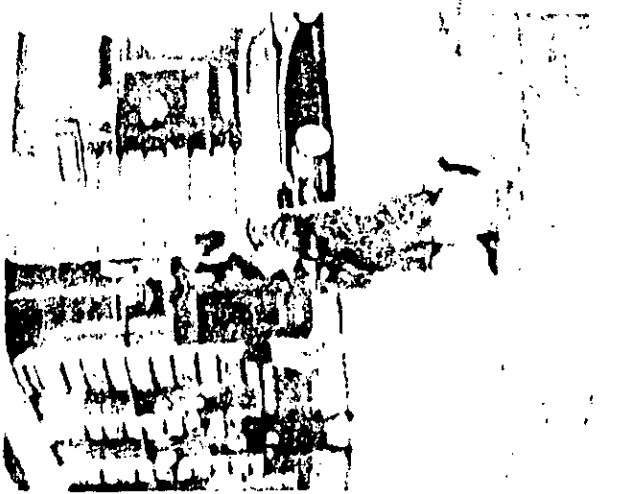
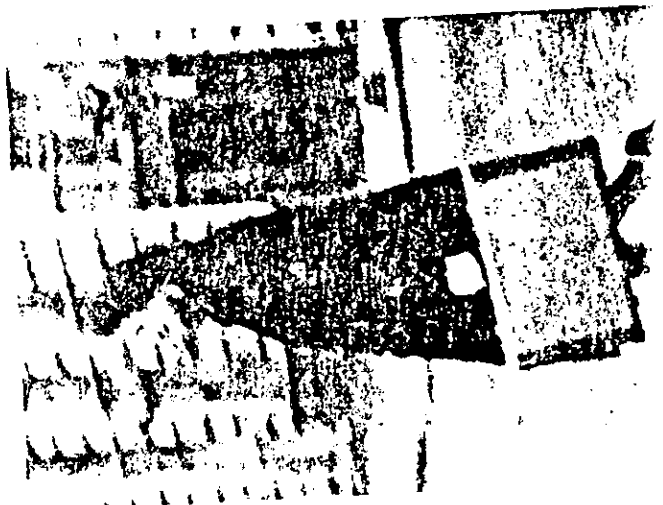
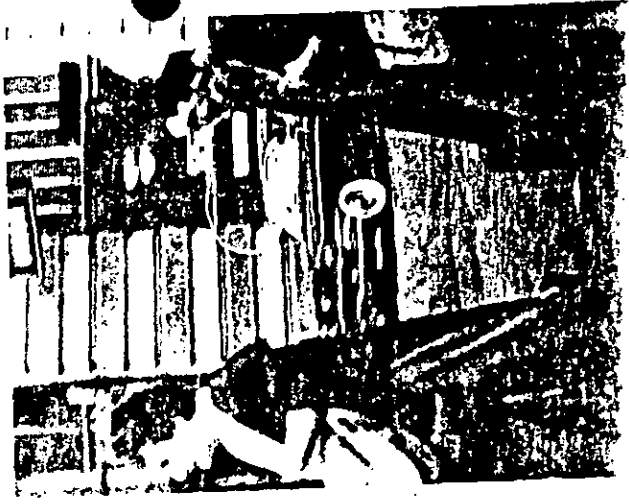


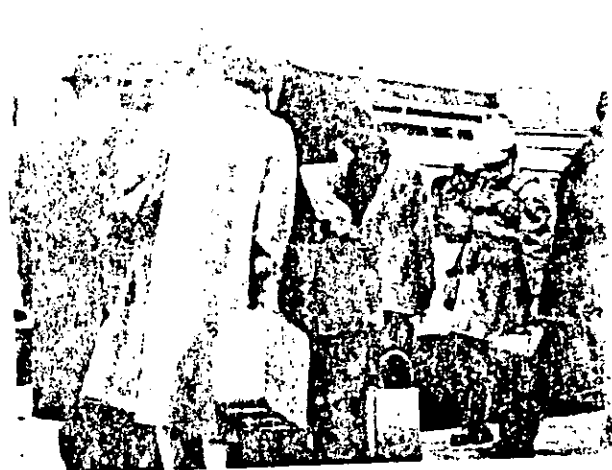




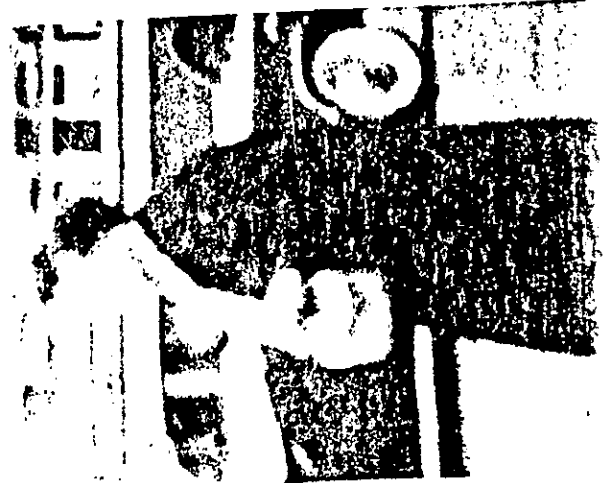
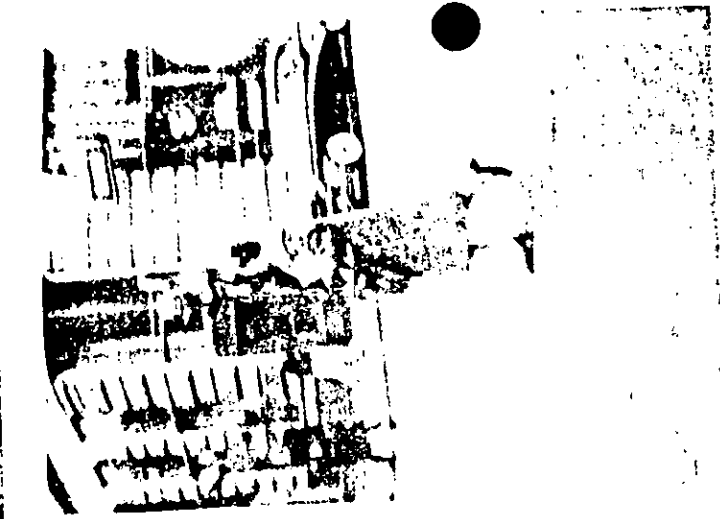












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*per call*  
  
 67D

E. HUGO WINTERROWD, ASAC

REVEREND PETER McCORMACK  
REVEREND ALVA TOMPKINS  
% SOBELL CLERGY APPEAL  
The Green Room  
Hotel Shoreham  
Washington, D.C.

603  
FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 PM MONDAY, NOV. 21, 1960 <sup>b7D</sup>

Editors: Please check your state for local signers in enclosed listing.

1200 CLERGYMEN FROM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY  
IN INDEPENDENT APPEAL FOR MORTON SOBELL'S FREEDOM

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
NOV 22 1960	
FBI - NEW YORK	

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov.21--An appeal to President Eisenhower to free imprisoned scientist Morton Sobell before leaving office was announced today by spokesmen for 1200 clergymen of different faiths who have joined in the request.

The appeal to the President, signed by many of America's most eminent ministers and rabbis, stated:

"Whenever human beings are involved in matters of judgment and justice, there does exist the possibility of human error. Most particularly, when a trial reflects the national tensions of the day, the verdict may suffer from prejudice or unreason, too difficult to dismiss. Every American who thinks about his own freedoms cannot help but concern himself when the question of this kind of an injustice is raised.

"It is impressive, therefore, that throughout his imprisonment, Morton Sobell has proclaimed his innocence.



Moreover, thirty years is a lifetime sentence that the mother, wife, and children of Morton Sobell share with him.

"It is the quality of mercy that insists that we, who feel the conscience of the United States as a particular responsibility, address you, Mr. President, to ask that you use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

The appeal was made public by a delegation of representative clergymen who had come to Washington to speak with government officials about the request for action in Sobell's behalf. It had been initiated on the West Coast by Reverend Peter McCormack of San Francisco and other California clergymen.

Reverend McCormack, a Presbyterian minister for more than 50 years, was Protestant Chaplain at Alcatraz during Morton Sobell's imprisonment there, and became convinced of his innocence. He has since been seeking to arouse the conscience of the country to obtain Morton Sobell's release.

During the past weekend a National Appeal for Freedom was held in Sobell's behalf in Washington. It featured an exhibit on the Sobell case at the Hotel Shoreham, a banquet addressed by nationally known speakers, a prayer at the White House on Sunday, and a panel discussion on facts and issues concerning the much-discussed imprisonment of Sobell.

The Washington weekend program was sponsored by such nationally known individuals as Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of the Union Theological Seminary in New York; Roger Baldwin, Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man; Norman Thomas; and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Last week another independent appeal--one by 600 educators, lawyers, writers and other Americans--was made public. Asking the President to free Sobell were such individuals as Clarence Pickett of the American Friends Service Committee; Harold Cranefield, attorney and general counsel for the International Union, United Auto Workers; author James T. Farrell; Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel Prize scientist, and Alexander Meiklejohn, civil libertarian.

Morton Sobell is now at the Atlanta Federal prison enduring the 11th year of his 30-year sentence. Last week David Greenglass, who had pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit espionage, was released from prison after serving 10 years. Many who have studied the record have criticized the 30-year sentence imposed against Sobell as being far out of proportion to sentences given to such persons as Greenglass; Klaus Fuchs and Allan Nunn May in England, and to Francis Powers in the recent U-2 episode.

A special inquiry into the Sobell case was made by an independent group that included Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and Professor Edmond Cahn of the New York University Law School. The group called the case against Sobell "vague in content and slender in proof," and recommended a commutation of sentence.

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REVEREND PETER McCORMACK  
REVEREND ALVA TOMPKINS  
% SOBELL CLERGY APPEAL  
The Green Room  
Hotel Shoreham  
Washington, D.C.

FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 P.M. MONDAY, NOV. 21, 1960

The following is the text of the clergy appeal by more than 1200 clergymen and a partial list by states of those who have signed:

"President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

"Whenever human beings are involved in matters of judgment and justice, there does exist the possibility of human error. Most particularly, when a trial reflects the national tensions of the day, the verdict may suffer from prejudice or unreason, too difficult to dismiss. Every American who thinks about his own freedoms cannot help but concern himself when the question of this kind of an injustice is raised.

"It is impressive, therefore, that throughout his imprisonment, Morton Sobell has proclaimed his innocence. Moreover, thirty years is a lifetime sentence that the mother, wife, and children of Morton Sobell share with him.

"It is the quality of mercy that insists that we, who feel the conscience of the United States as a particular responsibility, address you, Mr. President, to ask that you use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence.

"Very respectfully yours"

ARIZONA

Reverend Eugene E. Bell, Phoenix  
Dr. Marcus Breger, Tucson  
Reverend Nancy Galbreath, Phoenix  
Reverend William A. Henderson, Gilbert  
Reverend Edward K. James, Chandler  
Reverend David L. Jones, Phoenix  
Reverend J. Joseph McIntyre, Tempe  
Reverend Leonard L. Patterson, Phoenix  
Reverend Wm. H. Stevens, Jr., Phoenix  
Reverend J. Washington, Tucson.

CALIFORNIA

Reverend Benjamin N. Adams, San Francisco  
Reverend Gross W. Alexander, Lucerne Valley  
Reverend Elmo Allison, Livermore  
Reverend Samuel L. Banks, Marin City  
Reverend L. Roy Bennett, San Francisco  
Rabbi Ben Zion Bergman, Burbank  
Reverend John R. Bodo, San Anselmo  
Reverend James M. Brown, Eureka  
Reverend Richard E. Brown, Fresno  
Reverend Bruce Buchanan, La Puente  
Reverend C. Corwin Calavan, Oakland  
Reverend Robert V. Chapman, Oakland  
Reverend Don M. Chase, Sacramento  
Reverend Dr. Haridas Chaudhuri, San Francisco  
Reverend John Ruskin Clark, San Diego  
Reverend Jesse W. Coleman, Pasadena  
Reverend Abner H. Cook, Richmond  
Reverend W. P. Cook, Sacramento  
Reverend J. Raymond Cope, Berkeley  
Reverend Charles F. Cordes, Sunnyvale  
Reverend Alfred S. Dale, Jr., San Francisco  
Reverend Phillip J. Dauntton, Concord  
Reverend Wilford K. Denton, Long Beach  
Reverend William F. Dittler, Grover City  
Reverend Abraham H. Dohi, San Mateo  
Reverend C. LeRoy Doty, Jr., Long Beach  
Reverend Ed. J. Dreis, Santa Cruz  
Reverend Eldon Durham, Lomita  
Reverend P. J. Ellis, Los Angeles  
Reverend Thomas Davis Ewing, Santa Cruz  
Reverend Herbert W. Ezell, Wilmington  
Reverend Donald H. Fado, Fresno  
Reverend Ward J. Fellows, Sunnyvale  
Reverend Wilbur M. Franklin, Long Beach  
Reverend Stephen H. Fritchman, Glendale  
Reverend Erwin A. Gaede, Los Angeles  
Rabbi Irving Ganz, San Diego  
Reverend Richard H. Gatchel, Palo Alto  
Reverend Harmon M. Gehr, Pasadena  
Reverend John Goad, Mt. View  
Rabbi Joseph N. Gumbiner, Berkeley  
Reverend Phillip T. Hagberg, Sacramento  
Reverend D. Murray Hammond, Mill Valley  
Reverend Emerson G. Hangen, Long Beach  
Professor Georgia Harkness, Berkeley  
Reverend Melvin H. Harter, San Diego  
Dr. C. Douglas Hayward, Berkeley  
Reverend Norman A. Head, Antioch  
Reverend Ernest Heeren, San Francisco  
Dr. John Herring, Claremont  
Reverend John L. Hoff, Sonoma  
Reverend Lester W. Hoffman, San Pedro  
Rabbi Morton Hoffman, San Rafael  
Professor Harland E. Hogue, Berkeley  
Reverend Mark Hogue, Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA cont'd

Reverend E. L. Holmes, Venice  
Reverend Theodore C. Honold, Pasadena  
Reverend Elmer J. Hostetler, Oakland  
Reverend John W. Hunter, Sacramento  
Rabbi Joseph M. Hurwitz, Palm Springs  
Reverend J. Stuart Innerst, Pasadena  
Reverend Harold E. Johnson, Hawthorne  
Reverend Bruce L. Jones, Concord  
Reverend George H. Junne, S.J., Santa Clara  
Rabbi Wolli Kaelter, Long Beach  
Reverend Cyrus S. Keller, Sacramento  
Reverend George Kendall, Palo Alto  
Reverend N. Robert Kesler, Pasadena  
Reverend Kelley Key, Los Angeles  
Reverend John Howland Lathrop, D.D., Berkeley  
Reverend T. Gordon Lake, Berkeley  
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Reverend Pyron McMillen, Carmichael  
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Reverend Jesse H. Parker, San Leandro  
Reverend Peter H. Paulson, Los Angeles  
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Reverend Dryden L. Phelps, Berkeley  
Reverend Grandison M. Phelps, Jr., San Diego  
Reverend Ernest Pipes, Jr., Santa Monica  
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Reverend W. M. Uphold, Jr., Fresno  
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Reverend George H. Weber, Los Altos  
Reverend George M. Weber, Palo Alto  
Reverend Guy A. White, Oakland  
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Reverend Kenneth J. Widney, Santa Rosa  
Reverend Hugh J. William, Pasadena  
Reverend Gomikel Williams, Los Angeles  
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Reverend W. L. Baxter, Stamford  
Reverend Samuel Reese Binch, Hamden  
Reverend Charles G. Campbell, Waterbury  
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Reverend Loring D. Chase, New Canaan  
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Reverend Walter H. Euston, Deep River  
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Reverend Justin J. Hartman, Norfolk  
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Reverend Harold C. Freeman, Jr., Baker  
Dr. Bernard C. Graves, St. Paul  
Rabbi Azriel Grishman, Duluth  
Reverend Joseph H. Grostephen, Minneapolis  
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Reverend Donald C. Hanson, Claremont  
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Reverend John D. Meyer, Underwood  
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Reverend David W. Preus, Minneapolis  
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Reverend Clarence Richardson, St. Paul  
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Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, Rochester  
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Rabbi Jack J. Cohen, New York City  
Rabbi Jacob Cohen, Spring Valley  
Reverend David A. Coleman, New Rochelle  
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Reverend Carl V. Herron, Tuckahoe  
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Reverend John A. McNeas, Spokane  
Reverend Donald S. Miller, Seattle  
Reverend Herbert E. Miller, Prosser  
Reverend L. Merlin Norris, Seattle  
Reverend Paul G. Perkins, Snohomish  
Reverend A. R. Perrino, Spokane  
Reverend Clifford J. Pine, Spokane  
Reverend George L. Poor, Chimacum  
Reverend W. H. Ritchey, Lind  
Reverend Ray C. Roberts, Seattle  
Reverend Myron H. Sharrand, Snoqualmie

WASHINGTON cont'd

Reverend Robert B. Shaw, Seattle  
Reverend James E. Shepherd, Tacoma  
Reverend Don Leland Smith, Seattle  
Rabbi Wilfred Solomon, Spokane  
Reverend Bernard L. Turner, Seattle  
Reverend James N. Updike, Lynden  
Reverend Gerald A. Van Doren, Lynnwood  
Reverend Donald R. Yates, Davenport

WISCONSIN

Reverend Melvin J. Battle, Milwaukee  
Reverend John W. Cyrus, Milwaukee  
Reverend Raymond A. Ley, Milwaukee  
Reverend Kenneth L. Smith, Milwaukee  
Rabbi Max D. Ticktin, Madison

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Reverend Theodore G. Bowen  
Rabbi Balfour Brickner  
Rabbi Morris Gordon  
Reverend Robert Pierre Johnson  
Reverend Henry C. Koch  
Reverend Clarence T. Nelson  
Reverend Duane H. Ramsey  
Reverend James J. Reeb  
Reverend Perry A. Smith  
Reverend James H. Somerville  
Reverend Wayne R. Woods

ADDITIONAL SIGNATURES AFTER ABOVE WAS COMPLETED

Reverend Lloyd D. Auchard, Crockett, Calif.  
Reverend George E. Clemmons, Oakland, Calif.  
Reverend W. E. Clawson, Jr., San Francisco, Calif.  
Reverend Edith M. Crane, Seattle, Wash.  
Reverend Clifford F. Custer, Tracy, Calif.  
Reverend Wm. J. Hunt, Sacramento, Calif.  
Reverend George B. Johnson, Oakland, Calif.  
Reverend Marion N. Lemon, Berkeley, Calif.  
Reverend David A. MacMurdo, Sacramento, Calif.  
Reverend R.A. Panzer, Sacramento, Calif.  
Reverend Edward L. Peet, Sacramento, Calif.  
Reverend Walter S. Press, Carmichael, Calif.  
Reverend Fred A. Rinehart, Rio Linda, Calif.  
Reverend Galen Lee Rose, Sacramento, Calif.  
Reverend F. M. Royster, Dixon, Calif.  
Reverend Herbert D. Valentine, San Francisco, Calif.  
Reverend Ernest R. Volkman, Oakland, Calif.  
Reverend John A. Wilson, Newark, Calif.

NEW YORK

Nov 14

1968

No. 306

# CHEMICAL CORN EXCHANGE BANK

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Twenty five and 00/100

Miss L. S. Kelly Secretary

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NEW YORK

Nov 14

1916

# CHEMICAL CORN EXCHANGE BANK

20th STREET & 5th AVENUE

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF

*Eastern Mercantile Trust*

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*Alfred D. ...*

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*114*  
*160*

*25*



**A CONVENING of AMERICANS**  
united in the request that  
**MORTON SOBELL**  
be granted a  
**COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE**  
during the traditional Christmas amnesty period.

# Program for **FREEDOM** Weekend

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 19th, 20th and 21st, 1960

## **EXHIBIT**

Specially assembled National Exhibition  
"Americans Appeal for Morton Sobell"  
The visual impact of democracy in action  
Open to public Friday, November 18, through Sunday,  
November 20 11 A.M. to 9 P.M.

## **RECEPTION**

Gathering of visitors and honored guests  
The Hotel Shoreham, Bird Cage Walk  
Saturday, November 19, 5:30 P.M.

## **SOBELL FREEDOM BANQUET**

The Hotel Shoreham, West Ballroom  
Saturday, November 19, 7 P.M.  
Invited by Rev. Nelson C. Pierce,  
Palisades Community Church, Washington, D. C.  
Honored Speakers:  
Burns Chalmers - of the American Friends Service  
Committee, Washington, D. C.  
Harold A. Cranfield - Attorney, Detroit, Mich.  
Rev. John Paul Jones - Ashfield, Mass.  
Mrs. Morton Sobell  
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein - National Chairman of the  
Committee for Labor Israel, Chicago, Ill.  
Chairman:  
Gerhard Van Arkel - Attorney, Washington, D. C.

## **PANEL**

"Facts and Issues in the Sobell Case"  
Prof. Thomas Emerson, Yale Law School  
"Further Support for Morton Sobell's Release"  
Group Discussion  
The Hotel Shoreham, West Ballroom  
Sunday, November 20, 2 P.M.

## **WHITE HOUSE PRAYER**

A sundown prayer for Morton Sobell's freedom  
At the White House Sunday, November 20, 2 P.M.  
Led by Rev. Alva Tompkins,  
First Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill.

## **DELEGATIONS**

A day of visiting government representatives on behalf  
of Morton Sobell's release Monday, November 21

Reservations for the banquet may be made at ten dollars per plate  
There is no admission charge for other events

Arrangements by  
Mrs. Morton Sobell Mrs. Rose Sobell  
Co-Chairmen  
Committee to Secure Justice for Morton Sobell  
940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y. - ALgonquin 4-9983

## Conscience Speaks

"Whenever human beings are involved in matters of judgment and justice, there does exist the possibility of human error. Most particularly, when a trial reflects the national tensions of the day, the verdict may suffer from prejudice or unreason, too difficult to dismiss. Every American who thinks about his own freedoms cannot help but concern himself when the question of this kind of an injustice is raised.

"It is impressive, therefore, that throughout his imprisonment, Morton Sobell has proclaimed his innocence. Moreover, 30 years is a lifetime sentence that the mother, wife and children of Morton Sobell share with him. It is the quality of mercy that insists that we, who feel the conscience of the United States as a particular responsibility, address you, Mr. President, to ask that you use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

### APPEAL TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER BY 1,000 CLERGYMEN OF DIFFERENT FAITHS

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell because I believe that the sentence was far too harsh for the offense, dictated by the hysteria of the anti-Communist rounding spy charges.

ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman  
International League for the Rights of Man

"The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."

REVEREND PETER McCORMACK  
Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while  
Morton Sobell was imprisoned there

"A number of eminent American jurists and clergymen have raised questions as to whether Morton Sobell was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted and as to whether, if guilty, he has not already been sufficiently punished. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, therefore, respectfully urges the President of the United States to review the case, to determine whether there are sufficient grounds either to recommend a new trial or to exercise executive clemency."

RESOLUTION of the 1960 Convention  
of the Central Conference of American  
Rabbis, Detroit, Mich.

"This case demonstrates a peculiarly twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"

NORMAN THOMAS

"Morton Sobell is serving his 10th year in prison. He has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence throughout his imprisonment. Many eminent Americans and other world figures, including jurists, scientists, clergymen have also expressed substantial doubt as to his guilt. There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day. The California Democratic Council has traditionally expressed concern for possible infringements upon justice and civil liberty. The CDC calls upon the President of the United States to review again the facts in the Sobell case and take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

RESOLUTION passed by California  
Democratic Council meeting attended  
by 3,000 delegates

"I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done."

DR. HAROLD C. UREY  
Nobel Prize scientist

"We concur in the plea for Morton Sobell's freedom, and call upon our fellow citizens to help. It is urgent that the voice of the public be heard in Washington during the coming months to encourage Sobell's release during the traditional Christmas amnesty season."

from an appeal by

REV. SAMUEL H. CASSEL, Cleveland  
HAROLD CRANFIELD, Detroit  
PROF. THOMAS EMERSON, Yale Law School  
CLARENCE PICKETT, Philadelphia  
PROF. MALCOLM SHARP, University of Chicago Law School  
DR. HAROLD C. GREY, La Jolla, California  
DR. ALEXANDER MEIKLEJOHN, Berkeley, California

"I am not trained in the law but I have attempted to study the background. This effort convinced me that Morton Sobell did not receive a fair and adequate trial. I have corresponded with the President and have urged him to consent to a new trial. Although I have been unsuccessful, I am even more convinced that a new trial is essential to the maintenance of American standards of justice. I make no reference to innocence or guilt; I make no pleas for clemency or mercy. In asking or demanding that impartial justice be rendered to one man regardless of conditions, I am aware of the fact that I speak out in the name of the people."

U.S. Congressman WILLIAM MEYER  
Newport

Convinced of the innocence of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty year sentence on charges which to many legal authorities appear flimsy, to say the least, we the undersigned of independent political views and in the interest of justice and humanity only, beg you to exercise your Presidential prerogative of clemency and return Morton Sobell to his family."

LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL, England  
DR. MARTIN BUBER, Israel

"We agree with the jury that Sobell -- who protests his innocence -- was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that -- being so -- the term he should now be released, in view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison."

NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK  
IRVING KRISTE, RICHIE MACDONALD  
in a letter to the New York Times

Historical records of the conviction of Morton Sobell for espionage rights and liberties of the citizenry. Law professors from the University of Chicago, New York University and other leading institutions have asked for Morton Sobell's freedom. The Central Labor Union Council of Minneapolis, representing 100,000 workers, calls for a new trial. The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, Paperhangers, Local #7, Cleveland, asks President Eisenhower to take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

"Undoubtedly, the atmosphere (McCarthyism) has cleared and one evidence is a re-examination of conscience. Last year the Portland Oregonian suggested in an editorial that some day the public conscience might be sufficiently stirred to determine whether Morton Sobell, now serving a 30-year sentence for conspiracy, was convicted of a crime or whether he was a victim of the emotionalism surrounding the Rosenberg case. With the clearing atmosphere, there is a growing realization that freedom is not something we periodically pat ourselves on the back about. It is a creative act to be constantly renewed."

MARQUIS CHILDS, in his nationally syndicated column



STATEMENT BY DISTINGUISHED THEOLOGIANs AND LAW PROFESSORS  
AFTER INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE FACTS IN THE SOBELL CASE

THE UNDERSIGNED are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 5, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.
2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.
3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.
4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.
5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR  
Vice-President and Professor of  
Ethics and Theology  
Union Theological Seminary  
New York City

JOHN C. BENNETT  
Dean and Professor of Ethics  
and Theology  
Union Theological Seminary

GERHARD O. W. MUELLER  
Associate Professor of Law  
New York University

EDMOND CAHN  
Professor of Law  
New York University

DANIEL DAY WILLIAMS  
Professor of Systematic Theology  
Union Theological Seminary

PAUL RAMSEY  
Professor of Religion  
Princeton University

JEROME NATHANSON  
Administrative Leader  
New York Society for  
Ethical Culture

(Titles are for identification only.)

REV. GROSS W. ALEXANDER, Lucerne Valley, Calif.  
 DAVID ANDREWS, Boone, N. C.  
 ROGER N. BALDWIN, New York City  
 REV. WILLIAM E. HASOM, Alexandria, Va.  
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 PROF. DALE PONTIUS, Chicago, Ill.  
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 NORMAN THOMAS, New York City  
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 PROF. FRANCIS D. WORMUTH, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 REV. SAMUEL A. WRIGHT, San Rafael, Calif.

*as sponsors*

*invite your participation in*

*a*

**NATIONAL APPEAL for FREEDOM**

*Washington, D. C.*

*November 19th, 20th and 21st, 1960*

67D

Dear Editor:

If you agree that the following is a fair recommendation in the Morton Sobell case, will you publish this editorial or a similar one in your publication?

Authorities cited in the editorial are quoted more fully in the brochure announcing the national appeal in Washington.

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NOT TO BE SE

One of the qualities in which our democracy justifiably takes pride is our concern for the individual. It is not surprising that when a cry is raised of a possible injustice to a fellow American, the national conscience is affected.

A number of distinguished individuals and organizations are raising questions concerning the trial and 30-year sentence of Morton Sobell on a charge of conspiracy to commit espionage. Sobell, you will recall, was in the same trial with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, although he was not accused of atomic espionage. He has throughout his imprisonment, now in his 11th year, maintained his innocence, and the Rev. Peter McCormack, who was the Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Sobell was held there, believes Sobell.

We are impressed by the fact that those appealing in Sobell's behalf include individuals and groups who in no way could be labeled Communist. For example, a study of the record was made by a group including one of the most distinguished theologians in America, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and leading law professor Edmund Cahn of New York University. They found the evidence against Sobell "vague in content and slender in proof."

Roger Baldwin, who has guarded our civil liberties for many decades, calls the 30-year sentence far too severe. One thousand ministers and rabbis have appealed to President Eisenhower, and the 1960 national convention of the Conference of American Rabbis adopted a resolution asking a review of the facts. It is significant too that an educator with the meticulous standards of Professor Sidney Hook, who assumes Sobell guilty of the charge, recommends his release and points out that the sole witness against Sobell merely testified to unsuccessful attempts to procure information.

Whatever the differing points of view about various aspects of this affair, there is a widespread unity of opinion that the 10 years Sobell has endured in prison, including nearly six in Alcatraz, is more than enough punishment.

It is difficult to see how Sobell's further prolonged imprisonment at public expense can at this point serve the national security. On November 19, 20 and 21 a national appeal is taking place in Washington, D.C., to urge a Presidential commutation of sentence for Morton Sobell during the traditional Christmas amnesty period. We believe this request should be given the utmost consideration.

####

# Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

SPECIAL TO CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mrs. Morton Sobell  
Mrs. Rose Sobell  
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CLERGYMEN AMONG NOTED AMERICANS SPONSORING  
NATIONAL GATHERING IN WASHINGTON, D. C.  
TO URGE FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

\*\*\*\*

SPONSORS INCLUDE DR. REINHOLD NIEBUHR,  
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NORMAN THOMAS, REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING

\*\*\*\*

Appeal by 1,000 Ministers and Rabbis to be Presented

\*\*\*\*

Clergymen from throughout the country are among  
the noted Americans sponsoring a national gathering  
to be held in Washington, D.C., from Nov. 19-21 to  
climax widespread appeals for the President to free  
Morton Sobell from prison.

Representative speakers from Washington and other  
cities will address a banquet at the Hotel Shoreham  
in Washington on Saturday, Nov. 19, to urge a  
commutation of sentence for Sobell, now in the 11th  
year of a 30-year sentence on the charge of "conspirac  
to commit espionage." Tried together with the Rosen-  
bergs in 1951, Sobell has steadfastly maintained  
his innocence.

Participants in the Washington events have expressed diverse views on the case, but are united in agreement that the sentence was far too severe and should now be reduced to the time served. They are requesting a Presidential commutation during the traditional Christmas amnesty season. An appeal to the President by more than 1,000 rabbis and ministers from throughout the United States is scheduled to be presented.

Among those listed as sponsors with such eminent individuals as Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of the Union Theological Seminary, Roger Baldwin, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Norman Thomas, are the following:

Rev. Gross W. Alexander, Lucerne Valley, Calif.; Rev. William E. Basom, Alexandria, Va.; Rev. John E. Evans, Columbus, Ohio; Rev. G. Shubert Frye, Syracuse, N.Y.; Rev. Erwin A. Gaede, Los Angeles, Calif.; Rev. Richard H. Gatchel, Palo Alto, Calif.; Rev. John Haynes Holmes, New York City; Rev. John Paul Jones, Ashfield, Mass.; Rev. Henry C. Koch, Washington, D.C.; Rev. Peter McCormack, Daly City, Calif.; Rev. Dryden C. Phelps, Berkeley, Calif. Rev. Francis S. Tucker, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Rev. Samuel A. Wright, San Rafael, Calif.; Dr. Markus Barth of Chicago, and Rev. Dr. Howard Schomer of Chicago.

The Sobell freedom banquet at the Hotel Shoreham will be addressed by Rev. John Paul Jones of Ashfield, Mass. and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of Chicago, with an invocation by Rev. Nelson C. Pierce of the Palisades Community Church in Washington. Other speakers will include attorneys Harold Crane of Detroit, General Counsel of the International Union, United Auto Workers;

and Gerhard Van Arkel of Washington; Burns Chalmers of the American Friends Service Committee, and Mrs. Morton Sobell. The speakers will be appearing as individuals and not as representatives of the organizations with which they are affiliated.

The appeal in behalf of Morton Sobell will also feature a national exhibit presenting the visual impact of appeals in his behalf, a panel discussion on the facts and issues in the case led by Prof. Thomas I. Emerson of the Yale Law School, and a sundown prayer at the White House led by Rev. Alva Tompkins of the Olivet Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

An independent inquiry into the facts in the Sobell case was made by a group that included Dr. Niebuhr, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Daniel Day Williams of the Union Theological Seminary; Dr. Paul Ramsey of Princeton University; Jerome Nathanson of the New York Ethical Culture Society, and law professors Edmond Cahn and Gerhard O. W. Mueller of New York University. The statement based on their findings held that the case against Sobell was "vague in content and slender in proof." They pointed out that Sobell was not accused of any connection with atomic espionage, and that his conviction and sentence were undoubtedly affected by the emotions surrounding the Rosenberg trial.

Morton Sobell is now in the Atlanta federal prison. He was held in Alcatraz for nearly six years. During his Alcatraz incarceration, the Rev. Peter McCormack, the Protestant prison chaplain at that time, became convinced of Sobell's innocence and has been fighting for his release.

#####

# Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

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Mrs. Morton Sobell  
Mrs. Rose Sobell  
*Chairmen*

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 196  
Special to Pennsylvania Editors

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Mrs. Clara M. Vincent  
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein  
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

Pennsylvania Educators and Clergymen  
In Two Appeals for Morton Sobell

-----  
Public Meeting in Philadelphia  
To Discuss Case on Sunday

Editors: Note enclosed appeals and listings  
of names of Pennsylvania signers

Mrs. Morton Sobell announced today that 79 Pennsylvanians including many educators had signed an appeal to President Eisenhower in behalf of her husband, and that 44 clergymen from Pennsylvania were among the 1500 clergymen from throughout the United States asking for her husband's release.

Mrs. Sobell, who has been fighting to prove innocence of Morton Sobell on conspiracy to commit espionage charges and obtain his release, said she would be in Philadelphia on Sunday to address a gathering of persons interested in learning about or helping with her husband's case.



The meeting will take place at 2 P.M. on Sunday, Dec. 18, in the Christian Association auditorium at the University of Pennsylvania. A featured event will be the showing of a national exhibition on the Sobell case which was presented at a three-day gathering recently held in Washington, D.C. under sponsorship of eminent Americans. Admission is free.

Morton Sobell is in the 11th year of a 30-year sentence imposed in the Rosenberg trial. He is at the federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia to which he was transferred after having spent more than five years in Alcatraz.

A study of his case by an independent group that included Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary in New York and Professor Edmund Cahn of the New York University Law School, has called the case against Sobell "vague in content and slender in proof," and recommended a commutation of sentence to time served.

Among the nationally known individuals who have urged Morton Sobell's release are Clarence Pickett of the American Friends Service Committee; author James T. Farrell; Roger Baldwin, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man; Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Norman Thomas; Rev. Peter McCormack, protestant chaplain at Alcatraz during Morton Sobell's imprisonment there; Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, and Rabbi Israel Goldstein.

Reasons advanced for action in Sobell's behalf include pleas that the sentence was out of proportion to evidence presented at the trial; that the trial could not have been fair in the atmosphere that prevailed; that Sobell should have been tried separately from the Rosenbergs since he was not accused of any connection with the atomic bomb project, or that he is in fact innocent as he has maintained throughout his ordeal.

####

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1960

67D

TEXT OF THE APPEAL FOR MORTON SOBELL SIGNED BY 1500 CLERGYMEN  
AND A LISTING OF THOSE FROM PENNSYLVANIA WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED:

"President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

"Whenever human beings are involved in matters of judgment and justice, there does exist the possibility of human error. Most particularly, when a trial reflects the national tensions of the day, the verdict may suffer from prejudice or unreason, too difficult to dismiss. Every American who thinks about his own freedoms cannot help but concern himself when the question of this kind of an injustice is raised.

"It is impressive, therefore, that throughout his imprisonment, Morton Sobell has proclaimed his innocence. Moreover, thirty years is a lifetime sentence that the mother, wife, and children of Morton Sobell share with him.

"It is the quality of mercy that insists that we, who feel the conscience of the United States as a particular responsibility, address you, Mr. President, to ask that you use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

Reverend James T. Alves, West Chester  
Rabbi Shlomo Balter, Philadelphia  
Reverend Russell B. Barbour, Easton  
Reverend Fred E. Blue, Wynnewood  
Rabbi Elias Charry, Philadelphia  
Reverend E. Luther Cunningham, Philadelphia  
Reverend Paul A. Corcoran, Glenolden  
Reverend Edward S. Davis, West Chester  
Reverend Allen T. Dixon, Philadelphia  
Reverend Donald L. Farrow, Philadelphia  
Reverend Lawrence C. Foard, Jr., Pottstown  
Reverend Arthur Freeman, Yardley  
Reverend John L. Galloway, Wayne  
Reverend Charles A. Grale, Willow Grove  
Rabbi Lewis B. Grossman, Philadelphia  
Reverend William A. Guenther, Pottstown  
Reverend P. L. Hailey, D.D., Philadelphia  
Reverend Ormond L. Hampton, Jr., Mt. Penn, Reading  
Reverend John F. Hardwick, Langhorne  
Reverend Ray H. Hartman, Conshohocken  
Reverend Ray T. Harwick, Fairless Hills  
Reverend David G. High, Newton  
Reverend Robert Horton, Trevose  
Rabbi Solomon Kahn Kaplan, Philadelphia

Rabbi Abraham Krantz, Greensburg  
Reverend Charles H. Long, Glenside  
Reverend C. Frederick Mathias, West Chester  
Reverend John F. McConaughy, Woodside  
Reverend Norman Melchert, Lester  
Reverend William T. Moore, Jr., Philadelphia  
Reverend Russell R. Morgan, Jr., Huron  
Reverend Raymond W. Nicholson, Philadelphia  
Reverend LeRoy Patrick, Pittsburgh  
Reverend Edward O. Poole, Port Kennedy  
Reverend L. David Schlosser, West Chester  
Reverend Donald F. Shaw, Lansdale  
Reverend Warner Sizemore, Malvern  
Reverend Charles E. Strauser, Coatesville  
Reverend James A. Trimble, Southampton  
Reverend Raimund L. Tumbelston, Philadelphia  
Dr. Fred D. Wentzel, Wayne  
Reverend Chester M. Williams, Chester  
Reverend Hadley B. Williams, Ardmore  
Reverend Paul W. Yoh, Spring City.

# Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

December 15, 1960

Mrs. Morton Sobell  
Mrs. Rose Sobell  
*Chairmen*

Dear Friend:

We have an urgent need for funds to carry on the efforts which have brought us very close to Morton's freedom.

Please send us your Holiday contribution of money at this time. Only your help can make it possible for us to continue our fight for justice, and the very life of a living human being.

Our best wishes for a Happy Holiday and a fine New Year.

Faithfully yours,

*Rose Sobell*  
Rose Sobell

*Helen Sobell*  
Mrs. Morton Sobell

P. S. Some confusion has arisen because of recent stories about Dr. Robert Soblen and his brother, Jack Soble. Morton is not related to them or in any way connected with their case.

## HONORARY SPONSORS (partial listing)

Rev. G. W. Alexander  
David Andrews  
Rabbi I. S. Bass  
Helen M. Bausley  
Leo Berman  
Rabbi Samuel Bernstein  
Harold A. Cranefield  
Lloyd Donnell  
Prof. Kermit Eby  
Rev. John E. Evans  
Rabbi Morris Fishman  
Rev. Kenneth Ripley Forbes  
Waldo Frank  
Rev. G. Shubert Frye  
Rev. Erwin A. Gaede  
Maxwell Geisnar  
Rabbi Robert E. Goldberg  
Prof. Erwin R. Goodenough  
Rabbi Avery Grossfeld  
Dr. A. Eustace Haydon  
Russell Johnson  
Rev. John Paul Jones  
Rev. Joseph P. King  
Dr. Paul L. Lehmann  
Dr. Milton Lester  
Daniel G. Marshall  
Dr. Leo Mayer  
Milton Mayer  
Louis F. McCabe  
Rev. Peter McCormack  
Dr. Gardner Murphy  
Rev. Dryden Linsley Phelps  
Prof. Dale Pontius  
Howard B. Radest  
Prof. Anatol Rapaport  
Prof. Oscar K. Rice  
Lord Bertrand Russell  
Prof. Malcolm Sharp  
Dr. D. R. Sharpe  
Sidney Silverman, M.P.  
Rev. Francis S. Tucker  
Dr. Harold C. Urey  
Mrs. Clara M. Vincent  
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein  
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

P R O G R A M

EXHIBIT - Specially assembled National  
Exhibition "Americans Appeal  
for Morton Sobell" -

- from 2 p.m.

REPORT - MRS. HELEN SOBELL

- from 3 p.m.

Auspices: Phila. Sobell Committee  
2708 W. Sterner St. - BA 9-2426

a special  
thank you

A special thank you to all  
those who contributed to the  
successful gathering of the  
National Conference in Wash.  
on Nov. 19, 20, 21. To those  
who went to Washington...  
those who spent many hours  
preparing material, address-  
ing and mailing... those who  
contributed financial support  
... to those who contributed  
moral support... to all those  
who made their effort count...  
THANK YOU.

12/19/60  
a Christmas  
miracle



FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

You are cordially invited to hear

MRS. HELEN SOBELL

REPORT ON THE EVENTS REGARDING THE  
NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FREEDOM FOR MORTON SOBELL

held recently in Washington, D. C.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1960

at the

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, UNIV. OF PENNA.

3601 Locust Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**"... one single living human being..."**

In mid-November, in Washington, D. C., from across this country, leaders in the fields of religion, of science, of education, of law -- met to call for the immediate release of Morton Sobell.

This national assembly mirrored a decade of the most determined daily struggle of a family for freedom. It presented a tremendous tribute to truth, for the American people have listened to the word "innocent" and do care about guarding those precious principles that make life most worth living.

Today, no expression is more important than yours in joining others throughout our nation to extend the effort put forth here. This is the traditional Amnesty period -- it is your support that will bring to Washington our vital demand for freedom for Morton Sobell.

An innocent man can be any one single living human being. His freedom belongs to all of us.

*'...The strange picture of human beings in the middle of the 20th Century...willing to devote time and energy and effort to consider the fate of one single living human being. If we should ever lose this ability to be concerned...then whatever else we gain, we have indeed lost...'*

THE REVEREND HOWARD RADEST



# A National Appeal For Freedom

12/19/60



## Americans Gather at White House To Pray for Release of Morton Sobell

Rev. Richard H. Gatchel of Palo Alto, California, and Rev. G. Shubert Frye of Syracuse, New York, seen leading the White House prayer with Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, and Mrs. Helen Sobell, his wife, are two of the 1500 clergymen of different faiths who have appealed to the President.

A three-day convening in Washington was sponsored by eminent Americans including Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of the Union Theological Seminary; Roger Baldwin, Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man; Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath; Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Norman Thomas.

Please read why Americans are acting on this ur-

THE NEW YORK TIMES,  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1960.

### SOBELL'S RELEASE IS SOUGHT BY 1,800

Lawyers and Clergy Appeal to President in Case of Espionage Conspiracy

By PETER BRAESTRUP  
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19—Some 1,800 lawyers, clergymen and educators joined today in two petitions asking President Eisenhower to release Morton Sobell, who was convicted nine years ago of conspiring to commit espionage.

The imprisoned man's wife, Mrs. Helen Sobell, said: "I really hope that we are moving into a more rational period."

She came here for a week-end meeting on her husband's behalf. The meeting, which was to include a banquet, drew 250 persons today at the Hotel Shoreham. The meeting included panel discussions of the Sobell case and the display of two petitions, which were signed by 600 lawyers and educators and 1,200 clergymen.

Among the meeting's sponsors were:

- The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of Union Theological Seminary; Roger Baldwin, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, and Norman Thomas, veteran Socialist party leader.

Has Served Eight Years

Sobell, now 43 years old, was tried in 1951 with the atom spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. He pleaded innocent. In the trial, he was not linked to the theft of atomic secrets, but was accused of conspiring to transmit secret information. The Rosenbergs were executed in 1953. Sobell is now in Atlanta.

Mrs. Sobell has repeatedly appealed the case to the White House without success. She has drawn growing support from persons who share her contention that Sobell's trial was unfair or feel that his sentence was excessive. Among these persons were representatives Randall S. Harmon, Democrat of Indiana, and William Meyer, Democrat of Vermont, and the late Senator William Langer, Republican of North Dakota.

Speeches urging Sobell's release were scheduled for tonight's banquet by Burns Chalmers of the American Friends Service Committee, and the Rev. John Paul Jones, former chairman of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Professor Thomas I. Emerson of the Yale Law School, in an address prepared for delivery tomorrow, said that the jury's verdict in the Sobell case had reflected the "hysteria and pressures of the time."

Sobell, he said, should have been tried separately from the Rosenbergs because he was not accused of atomic espionage.

Professor Emerson cited David Greenglass, a key prosecution witness in the Rosenberg trial. Greenglass was released Wednesday after serving nine and one-half years of a fifteen-year sentence.

The trial of the Rosenbergs and Sobell was held in Federal District Court in New York in March, 1951. The trial judge was Irving R. Kaufman.

At the trial Max Elitcher testified that Sobell and Rosenberg, former college classmates, had tried to get him to steal official armament data for the Soviet Union during and after World War II.

Mrs. Sobell said today that she and her supporters planned a prayer meeting in front of the White House tomorrow and visits to the Department of Justice and other Government offices on her husband's behalf on Monday. She indicated that the petition would be delivered to the President on Monday.

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
NOVEMBER 22, 1960.

### WHITE HOUSE GETS APPEAL FOR SOBELL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (AP)—Clergymen urging the release of Morton Sobell took petitions today to the White House and the United States Pardon Attorney.

Sobell has been in prison since 1951, when he was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage. He was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted and executed as atomic spies. Sobell, who was given a thirty year prison sentence, pleaded innocent; he did not testify at his trial.

The appeal to President Eisenhower asked him to "use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

The Rev. Ernest O. Martin of Washington, D. C., said that he

### SOBELL RELEASE ASKED

200 Stage Protest March at The White House

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP)—Two-hundred persons demonstrated in front of the White House Sunday, urging the release of Morton Sobell, who has been in prison since 1951 following one of the nation's best-known spy trials. The march was the climax of a week-end of meetings aimed at winning freedom for Sobell, who was convicted as a accomplice of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. The Rosenbergs were executed in 1953.

### A CONTINUING PROTEST

# Greenglass Free, Why Not Sobell?

By TOM KELLY

Mrs. Morton Sobell, a home town girl, is back in Washington for an odd sort of anniversary.

It is 10 years since her husband, Morton, went to jail.

It is, perhaps less significantly, 10 years since David Greenglass, the atomic spy, went to jail.

The Sobells are inextricably mixed up in the atomic spy trials of 1951 — the Rosenbergs were executed, and David Greenglass, Mrs. Rosenberg's brother and the chief prosecution witness, went to jail. So did Morton Sobell, who was little more than a bystander, innocent or not.

This week David Greenglass walked out of prison free.

Morton Sobell is still in Atlanta, with 22 years more to serve.

Mrs. Sobell, a small, plumpish, pleasant woman is not, by the nature of things, an admirer of David Greenglass.

"I was surprised," she said yesterday, "that his wife and children weren't there to meet him."

#### BLAND

That is about as bitter as Mrs. Sobell ever gets.

For 10 years she and her mother-in-law have traveled around the country collecting money and support for her husband's cause. They collect and spend \$50,000 a year.

They collect it from bake sales, benefit shows, dinners and such and they spend it on pamphlets, books, appeals and peaceful demonstrations.

Mrs. Sobell says her husband was innocent of any intent ever to spy on the United States. Her mother-in-law, Mrs. Rose Sobell, says the same.

#### SUPPORT IS MIXED

They have enlisted a lot of supporters and a lot of these say they do not know. Some say maybe Morton Sobell was a spy but the trial didn't prove it. Some say he was fairly convicted, but that his sentence was too harsh.

The Sobell ladies are glad to get help of any hue.

They have enlisted 1200 clergymen in their fight for a commutation of sentence.

Tonight and tomorrow at the Shoreham Hotel some of these clergymen, the Rev. Nelson C. Pierce, of Palisades Community Church here, the Rev. John Paul Jones, of Ashfield, Mass., and the Rev. Alva Tompkins, of Chicago, will appear on Morton Sobell's behalf.

#### ADMANT

Mrs. Rose Sobell, his mother, is a sturdy, grey-haired woman with an air of indomitable Mrs. Mor-ton Sobell, the wife, eats liver on at lunch almost every day on the theory that it is the healthiest thing she can eat.

For 10 years they have worked only for one thing.

They hope their cause is near a climax but if it is not they seem prepared to keep working for the next 22

NEW YORK POST, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1960

THE SUN, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 22, 1960

## CLERGY BACK SOBELL PLEA

2 In State Un Petition For Spy-Case Clemency

Fifty-two Marylanders, including 26 from Baltimore, were among 1,500 clergymen who signed petitions that were sent today to President Eisenhower and the United States parliament in an attempt to secure a sentence for Morton Sobell.

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 1960 The Atlanta Journal

# Wife Visits Sobell Here Friends Rally In Washington To Free Sobell

By MIKE EDWARDS

Mrs. Morton Sobell, in Atlanta to visit her prisoner husband at the Federal Penitentiary, said Wednesday she hopes appeals made in Washington for Sobell's release will cause President Eisenhower to grant him "a Christmas amnesty . . . a Christmas miracle."

Sobell, serving a 30-year sentence on a charge of conspiring with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to steal atomic secrets for Russia, also is hopeful, she said. But she added: "We never can permit ourselves to hope too terribly much."

lawyers, educators and others, including some prominent atomic scientists, will cause President Eisenhower to grant her husband executive clemency. The petitions were presented to the White House last week.

If his time in custody the trial were not counter-acted, Sobell said, her husband would be eligible for consideration in April, 1961, 10 years from the time of sentencing.

#### BUT IN ORDER

to New York to consult with attorneys on an appeal. Sobell had to be taken to New York during the trial.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KY. MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 21, 1960

# White House March Seeks Sobell Release

Washington, Nov. 20.—An estimated 200 persons demonstrated in front of the White House Sunday, urging the release of Morton Sobell.

prison since conviction in conspiracy to he was tried with Ethel Rosenberg, and executed in Russia. Sobell, 40-year prison inmate, he innocent; he

# Conscience

"Undoubtedly, the atmosphere (McCarthyism) has cleared and one evidence is a re-examination of conscience. Last year the Portland Oregonian suggested in an editorial that some day the public conscience might be sufficiently stirred to determine whether Morton Sobell, now serving a 30-year sentence for conspiracy, was convicted of a crime or whether he was a victim of the emotionalism surrounding the Rosenberg case. With the clearing atmosphere, there is a growing realization that freedom is not something we periodically pat ourselves on the back about. It is a creative act to be constantly renewed."

MARQUIS CHILDS, in his nationally syndicated column

"I join in protesting the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell . . . I have become wholly convinced from a rather intensive study of the matter that this is another of those cases in which justice miscarried for reasons that are not amenable to judicial correction."

HAROLD A. CRANFIELD, Labor Attorney, Detroit, Mich.

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges."

ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman International League for the Rights of Man

"The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."

REVEREND PETER McCORMACK Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there

"This case demonstrates a peculiarly twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"

NORMAN THOMAS



# Speaks for

## MORTON SOBELL



"I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done."

DR. HAROLD C. UREY  
Nobel Prize scientist

"Morton Sobell is serving his 10th year in prison. He has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence throughout his imprisonment. Many eminent Americans and other world figures, including jurists, scientists, clergymen have also expressed substantial doubt as to his guilt. There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day. The California Democratic Council has traditionally expressed concern for possible infringements upon justice and civil liberty. The CDC calls upon the President of the United States to review again the facts in the Sobell case and take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

RESOLUTION passed by California  
Democratic Council meeting attended  
by 3,000 delegates

"Convinced of the innocence of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty year sentence on charges which to many legal authorities appear flimsy, to say the least, we the undersigned of independent political views and in the interest of justice and humanity only, beg you to exercise your Presidential prerogative of clemency and return Morton Sobell to his family."

LORD BERTRAND RUSSELL, England

"A number of eminent American jurists and clergymen have raised questions as to whether Morton Sobell was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted and as to whether, if guilty, he has not already been sufficiently punished. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, therefore, respectfully urges the President of the United States to review the case, to determine whether there are sufficient grounds either to recommend a new trial or to exercise executive clemency."

RESOLUTION of the 1960 Convention  
of the Central Conference of American  
Rabbis, Detroit, Mich.

"We agree with the jury that Sobell -- who protests his innocence -- was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that, having served the term, he should now be released... In view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison."

NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK  
IRVING KRISTOL, DWIGHT MACDONALD

## An Appeal by JAMES T. FARRELL

EMINENT AMERICAN AUTHOR

I have the great fear and the sick feeling that an innocent man is in prison. I have the conviction that the release of Morton Sobell can only do good, and not harm. Everything I have so far learned about him supports my conviction and I think it seems to me but mere minimum justice now, to restore him to life and to the kind and decent family which loves him.

In 1960, we must speak, and with all urgency. We must cry out, we must demand that no possible instance of "man's inhumanity to man" be tolerated. It is our duty and our honor that we spare no effort for the protection of the innocent, and that in any case of injustice the quickest possible action be taken to rectify this most terrible of evils. Unless justice and compassion and Walt Whitman's love be as normal as our daily life we are sunken far below all of the general principles which proclaim the freedom of man...

It is for us to remember and to preserve all of the noble work of those who have gone, but who have given of their brain, bone and muscle, their blood, to the creation of the dignity of man. It is for us to defend and preserve and to extend that dignity, and when we ourselves are anonymous dust, to leave our memory in future for those who will redeem the injustices of the centuries

Let us now begin to say and to make real with all our power that justice is a new-born idea. I ask for and I clasp hands with you in calling for the freedom of Morton Sobell.

## STATEMENT

BY DISTINGUISHED THEOLOGIANS AND LAW PROFESSORS AFTER  
INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE FACTS IN THE SOBELL CASE

Dear Friend:

As Morton Sobell's mother and wife, we ask with all our hearts that you help us.

Our family ordeal has lasted more than 10 years. But our hopes are high because of the mounting appeals by thousands upon thousands of Americans.

We have an unshakable faith that if the public continues to speak out, Morton's freedom will become a reality. Your simple act of writing a letter to our President will let him know that the American people want to see Morton freed.

Please write today to:  
The President of  
the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

We thank you for acting in the cause  
of justice and humanity.

Sincerely yours,

*Rose Sobell*

Mrs. Rose Sobell

*Helin Sobell*

Mrs. Morton Sobell

Co-Chairmen  
Committee to Secure Justice  
for Morton Sobell

THE UNDERSIGNED are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 5, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.
2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.
3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.
4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.
5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR  
Vice-President and Professor of  
Ethics and Theology  
Union Theological Seminary  
New York City

EDMOND CAHN  
Professor of Law  
New York University

DANIEL DAY WILLIAMS  
Professor of Systematic Theology  
Union Theological Seminary

JOHN C. BENNETT  
Dean and Professor of Ethics  
and Theology  
Union Theological Seminary

JEROME NATHANSON

# Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

December 29, 1960

Mrs. Morton Sobell  
Mrs. Rita Sobell  
*Chairmen*

Dear Friend,

The next New York Committee meeting will be held on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1961

at 7 P.M.

COMMITTEE OFFICE, 940 BROADWAY

## HONORARY SPONSORS (partial listing)

Rev. Gross W. Alexander  
David Andrews  
Rabbi J. S. Bass  
Helen M. Beardsley  
Leo Berman  
Rabbi Samuel Bernstein  
Harold A. Cranefield  
Lloyd Donnell  
Prof. Kenneth Eby  
Rev. John E. Evans  
Rabbi Morris Fishman  
Rev. Kenneth Ripley Forbes  
Waldo Frank  
Rev. G. Shubert Frye  
Rev. Erwin A. Gaede  
Maxwell Geismar  
Rabbi Robert E. Goldberg  
Prof. Erwin R. Goodenough  
Rabbi Avery Grossfield  
Dr. A. Eustace Haydon  
Russell Johnson  
Rev. John Paul Jones  
Rev. Joseph P. King  
Dr. Paul L. Lehmann  
Dr. Milton Lester  
Daniel G. Marshall  
Dr. Leo Mayer  
Milton Mayer  
Louis F. McCabe  
Rev. Peter McCormack  
Dr. Gardner Murphy  
Rev. Dryden Linsley Phelps  
Prof. Dale Pontius  
Howard B. Radest  
Prof. Anatol Rapaport  
Prof. Oscar K. Rice  
Lord Bertrand Russell  
Prof. Malcolm Sharp  
Dr. D. R. Sharpe  
Sidney Silverman, M.P.  
Rev. Francis S. Tucker  
Dr. Harold C. Urey  
Mrs. Clara M. Vincent  
Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein  
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

Our very good friends, Jennie and Ben Ratner, whose devotion and most active participation in the fight to free Morton are known to you, are leaving our city and this will be the last meeting they will be attending in New York. Please join us on Wednesday to help plan and make arrangements for the Testimonial we are giving to Jennie and Ben on January the 21st.

We are sure you will want to be with us and we are looking forward to seeing you.


Sincerely,

*Evelyn Harap*

Evelyn Harap  
NEW YORK SOBELL COMMITTEE

We urgently need clothing, kitchen utensils, etc. in our THRIFT SHOP. Please look through your closets and kitchen cabinets and donate whatever you can spare. If you cannot deliver yourself, please call AL 4-9983 and pick-ups will be made immediately. We also need volunteer help in the store. Please call us.

We wish you a happy New Year!

  
You are cordially invited to attend the  
Farewell Testimonial  
for

67D

**Jennie and Ben Ratner**

Saturday Eve., January 21st, 1961, 8:30 p. m.  
at Estonian Hall, 2061 Lexington Ave.  
Near 125th St., New York

Auspices, N. Y. Sobell Com.

Entertainment. Buffet-Dinner. Sub \$2.50

MRS. MORTON SOBELL

30 Charlton Street

New York 14, N. Y.

6TD

January 6, 1961

Dear Atlanta Clergyman:

I hope you will read the enclosed information regarding the case of my husband, Morton Sobell. As you will see by the statement made by a group of theologians and lawyers, headed by Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Law Professor Edmond Cahn, there is great interest in securing a commutation of the 30-year sentence of my husband.

I hope you will want to join with the almost 2000 clergymen who have asked for freedom or a new trial. In doing so, you will be acting in the interest of justice, for my husband is truly an innocent man who should never have been imprisoned.

Our family waits for the day when we will be together after these 10 long years of imprisonment for our beloved one.

Please read and act as your conscience directs you to do. I hopefully await your positive reply. Please let me hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

*Helen Sobell*  
(Mrs. Morton Sobell)

67D

## VOICES OF CONCERN

In addition to articles and book reviews in various law journals which noted study of the case of Morton Sobell, each indicating that Sobell did not receive justice (to which Perry S. Martin refers in the article quoted below), clergymen and many religious publications have expressed deep concern in articles and editorials about the case of Morton Sobell. Such publications include CHRISTIAN CENTURY, CHRISTIANITY AND CRISIS, CATHOLIC WORKER, INTERCOLLEGIAN (National Student publication of YM-YWCA), UNITARIAN REGISTER, SOCIAL QUESTIONS BULLETIN (Methodist Federation for Social Action), BULLETIN, DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY (National Council of Churches), and LUTHERAN COMPANION. Here is an article which appeared in the Christmas 1960 issue of NEW-CHURCH MESSENGER:

### THE SOBELL CASE

A few days after David Greenglass was released from prison, 1500 ministers sent a petition to President Eisenhower asking for the pardon or retrial of Morton Sobell. Greenglass, an atom spy by his own confession, had been in prison for 9½ years. Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison, convicted by the testimony of a single witness, a known perjurer. Sobell was not charged with having transmitted any specific information to the Soviet Union, but his trial was linked with that of the Rosenbergs, in the atmosphere of hysterical panic that marked the beginning of the McCarthy campaign against "unAmerican activities".

It is not within our knowledge to say whether Sobell was innocent or guilty. But when eminent lawyers, educators, and theologians join in asserting that Morton Sobell did not receive a fair trial, our social conscience bids us to speak for the cause of justice. Prominent law journals such as the Columbia Law Review, the Yale Law Journal, and the University of Chicago Law Review agree that Sobell did not receive due process. Concurring in this opinion we find "The Christian Century", Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and Nobel Prize scientist Dr. Harold Urey.

Throughout his imprisonment Sobell has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence. Thirty years is a lifetime sentence that his family share with him. During this time his mother and wife have worked unceasingly to obtain his freedom.

Why should we be concerned about the freedom of this one man? When our country becomes indifferent to the freedom of one individual, the freedom of all is jeopardized. Every person is precious in the Lord's sight and we are doing his will when we defend the freedom and seek justice for our brother man. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

-PERRY S. MARTIN

Secular publications have also concerned themselves. The NATION, Nov. 12, 1960, carried an article by New York Law School Professor William Kunstler, calling for freedom for Sobell. The NEW REPUBLIC urged the President to grant freedom to Sobell in an editorial on Dec. 5, 1960, and this was followed by an editorial in THE PROGRESSIVE in the January 1961 issue, also urging freedom.

Sobell Committee  
940 Broadway  
New York City

# Committee To Secure Justice For Morton Sobell

940 BROADWAY (Entrance on 22nd Street) NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

Algonquin 4-9983

Mrs. Morton Sobell  
Mrs. Rose Sobell  
*Chairmen*

December 15, 1960

## HONORARY SPONSORS (partial listing)

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David Andrews  
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Sidney Silverman, M.P.  
Rev. Francis S. Tucker  
Dr. Harold C. Urey  
Mrs. Clara M. Vincent  
Rabbi Jacob I. Weinstein  
Prof. Francis D. Wormuth

Dear Friend:

We have an urgent need for funds to carry on the efforts which have brought us very close to Morton's freedom.

Please send us your Holiday contribution of money at this time. Only your help can make it possible for us to continue our fight for justice, and the very life of a living human being.

Our best wishes for a Happy Holiday and a fine New Year.

Faithfully yours,

*Rose Sobell*  
Rose Sobell

*Helen Sobell*  
Mrs. Morton Sobell

P. S. Some confusion has arisen because of recent stories about Dr. Robert Soblen and his brother, Jack Soble. Morton is not related to them or in any way connected with their case.

# A National Appeal For Freedom



## Americans Gather at White House To Pray for Release of Morton Sobell

Rev. Richard H. Gatchel of Palo Alto, California and Rev. G. Shubert Frye of Syracuse, New York, seen leading the White House prayer with Mrs. Rose Sobell, mother of Morton Sobell, and Mrs. Helen Sobell, his wife, are two of the 1500 clergymen of different faiths who have appealed to the President.

A three-day convening in Washington was sponsored by eminent Americans including Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of the Union Theological Seminary; Roger Baldwin, Chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man; Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath; Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Norman Thomas.

Please read why Americans are acting on this ur-

THE NEW YORK TIMES,  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1960.

### SOBELL'S RELEASE IS SOUGHT BY 1,800

Lawyers and Clergy Appeal to President in Case of Espionage Conspiracy

By PETER BRÆSTRUP  
Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Some 1,800 lawyers, clergymen and educators joined today in two petitions asking President Eisenhower to release Morton Sobell, who was convicted nine years ago of conspiring to commit espionage.

The imprisoned man's wife, Mrs. Helen Sobell, said: "I really hope that we are moving into a more rational period."

She came here for a week-end meeting on her husband's behalf. The meeting, which was to include a banquet, drew 250 persons today at the Hotel Shoreham. The meeting included panel discussions of the two case and the display of the two petitions, which were signed by 600 lawyers and educators and 1,200 clergymen.

Among the meeting's sponsors were:

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr and Dr. John C. Bennett of Union Theological Seminary; Roger Baldwin, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, and Norman Thomas, veteran Socialist party leader.

Has Served Eight Years

Sobell, now 43 years old, was tried in 1951 with the atom spies, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. He pleaded innocent. In the trial, he was not linked to the theft of atomic secrets, but was accused of conspiring to transmit secret information. The Rosenbergs were executed in Atlanta.

Mrs. Sobell has repeatedly appealed the case to the White House without success. She has drawn growing support from persons who share her contention that Sobell's trial was unfair or feel that his sentence was excessive. Among these persons were representatives Randall S. Harmon, Democrat of Indiana, and William Meyer, Democrat of Vermont, and the late Senator William Langer, Republican of North Dakota.

Speeches urging Sobell's release were scheduled for tonight's banquet by Burns Chalmers, of the American Friends Service Committee, and the Rev. John Paul Jones, former chairman of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Professor Thomas I. Emerson of the Yale Law School, in an address prepared for delivery tomorrow, said that the jury's verdict in the Sobell case had reflected the "hysteria and pressures of the time."

Sobell, he said, should have been tried separately from the Rosenbergs because he was not accused of atomic espionage. Professor Emerson cited the less-severe sentence given to David Greenglass, a key prosecution witness in the Rosenberg trial. Greenglass was released Wednesday after serving nine and one-half years of a fifteen-year sentence.

The trial of the Rosenbergs and Sobell was held in Federal District Court in New York in March, 1951. The trial judge was Irving R. Kaufman.

At the trial Max Elitcher testified that Sobell and Rosenberg, former college classmates, had tried to get him to steal official armament data for the Soviet Union during and after World War II.

Mrs. Sobell said today that she and her supporters planned a prayer meeting in front of the White House tomorrow and visits to the Department of Justice and other Government offices on her husband's behalf on Monday. She indicated that she would be delivered to

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
NOVEMBER 22, 1960.

### WHITE HOUSE GETS APPEAL FOR SOBELL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (AP)—Clergymen urging the release of Morton Sobell took petitions today to the White House and the United States Pardon Attorney.

Sobell has been in prison since 1951, when he was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage. He was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted and executed as atomic spies. Sobell, who was given a thirty year prison sentence, pleaded innocent; he did not testify at his trial.

The appeal to President Eisenhower asked him to "use your great office to urge a new trial for Morton Sobell, or grant him clemency by commutation of his sentence."

The Rev. Ernest O. Martin of Washington, D. C., said that he

### SOBELL RELEASE ASKED

200 Stage Protest March at The White House

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP)—Two-hundred persons demonstrated in front of the White House Sunday, urging the release of Morton Sobell, who has been in prison since 1951 following one of the nation's best-known spy trials. The march was the climax of a week-end of meetings aimed at winning freedom for Sobell, who was convicted and executed with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.



### A CONTINUING PROTEST

## Greenglass Free, Why Not Sobell?

By TOM KELLY

Mrs. Morton Sobell, a home town girl, is back in Washington for an odd sort of anniversary.

It is 10 years since her husband, Morton, went to jail.

It is, perhaps less significantly, 10 years since David Greenglass, the atomic spy, went to jail.

The Sobells are inextricably mixed up in the atomic spy trials of 1951 — the Rosenbergs were executed, and David Greenglass, Mrs. Rosenberg's brother and the chief prosecution witness, went to jail. So did Morton Sobell, who was little more than a bystander, innocent or not.

This week David Greenglass walked out of prison free.

Morton Sobell is still in Atlanta, with 22 years more to serve.

Mrs. Sobell, a small, plumpish, pleasant woman is not, by the nature of things, an admirer of David Greenglass.

"I was surprised," she said yesterday, "that his wife and children weren't there to meet him."

#### BLAND

That is about as bitter as Mrs. Sobell ever gets.

For 10 years she and her mother-in-law have traveled around the country collecting money and support for her husband's cause. They collect and spend \$50,000 a year.

They collect it from bake sales, benefit shows, dinners and such and they spend it on pamphlets, books, appeals and peaceful demonstrations.

Mrs. Sobell says her husband was innocent of any intent ever to spy on the United States. Her mother-in-law, Mrs. Rose Sobell, says the same.

#### SUPPORT IS MIXED

They have enlisted a lot of supporters and a lot of these say they do not know. Some say maybe Morton Sobell was a spy but the trial didn't prove it. Some say he was fairly convicted, but that his sentence was too harsh.

The Sobell ladies are glad to get help of any hue.

They have enlisted 1200 clergymen in their fight for a commutation of sentence.

Tonight and tomorrow at the Shoreham Hotel some of these clergymen, the Rev. Nelson C. Pierce, of Palisades Community Church here, the Rev. John Paul Jones, of Ashfield, Mass., and the Rev. Alva Tompkins, of Chicago, will appear on Morton Sobell's behalf.

#### ADMANT

Mrs. Rose Sobell, his mother, is a sturdy, grey-haired woman with an air of indestructibility. Mrs. Morton Sobell, the wife, eats liver at lunch almost every day on the theory that it is the healthiest thing she can eat.

For 10 years they have worked only for one thing.

They hope their cause is near a climax but if it is not they seem prepared to keep working for the next 22

NEW YORK POST, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1960

THE SUN, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 22, 1960

### CLERGY BACK SOBELL PLEA

2 In State Un Petition For Spy-Case Clemency

Fifty-two Marylanders, including 26 from Baltimore, were among 1,500 clergymen who had petitions that were sent yesterday to President Eisenhower and the United States attorney in an attempt to commutate Morton Sobell's sentence.

Wednesday, Nov. 23, 1960

## Wife Visits Sobell Her Hopes Ike Will Free Friends Rally In Washington To Free Sobell

By MIKE EDWARDS

Mrs. Morton Sobell, in Atlanta to visit her prisoner husband at the Federal Penitentiary, said Wednesday she hopes appeals made in Washington for Sobell's release will cause President Eisenhower to grant him "a Christmas amnesty . . . a Christmas miracle."

Sobell, serving a 30-year sentence on a charge of conspiring with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to steal atomic secrets for Russia, is hopeful, she said. But . . .

lawyers, educators and others, including some prominent atomic scientists, will cause President Eisenhower to grant her husband executive clemency. The petitions were presented to the White House last week.

If his time in custody the trial were not counted, Sobell said, her husband would be eligible for consideration in April. . . .

#### BUT IN ORDER

to New York to cover news on an appeal . . .

## White House March Seeks Sobell Release

Washington By The Associated Press

THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KY. MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 21, 1960

# Conscience

"Undoubtedly, the atmosphere (McCarthyism) has cleared and one evidence is a re-examination of conscience. Last year the Portland Oregonian suggested in an editorial that some day the public conscience might be sufficiently stirred to determine whether Morton Sobell, now serving a 30-year sentence for conspiracy, was convicted of a crime or whether he was a victim of the emotionalism surrounding the Rosenberg case. With the clearing atmosphere, there is a growing realization that freedom is not something we periodically pat ourselves on the back about. It is a creative act to be constantly renewed."

MARQUIS CHILDS, in his nationally syndicated column

"I join in protesting the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell . . . I have become wholly convinced from a rather intensive study of the matter that this is another of those cases in which justice miscarried for reasons that are not amenable to judicial correction."

HAROLD A. CRANFIELD, Labor Attorney, Detroit, Mich.

"I am opposed to the continued imprisonment of Morton Sobell on the ground that the sentence was far too excessive for the offense, dictated by the hysteria then surrounding spy charges."

ROGER BALDWIN, Chairman International League for the Rights of Man

"The more I studied, the more convinced I became of the man's innocence. To me no cry has had such merit to it as the cry for justice for Morton Sobell."

REVEREND PETER MCCORMACK Protestant chaplain at Alcatraz while Morton Sobell was imprisoned there

"This case demonstrates a peculiarly twisted idea of justice. Suppose Mr. Sobell were guilty as charged. What kind of justice is it that gives him 30 years sentence, six years in Alcatraz, and still refuses to consider any kind of reduction?"

NORMAN THOMAS

# Speaks for

# MORTON SOBELL



"I am astounded at how little there was about Sobell in the trial. You cannot tell what he is even supposed to have done."  
DR. HAROLD C. UREY  
Nobel Prize scientist

"Morton Sobell is serving his 10th year in prison. He has steadfastly proclaimed his innocence throughout his imprisonment. Many eminent Americans and other world figures, including jurists, scientists, clergymen have also expressed substantial doubt as to his guilt. There does exist the possibility of human error in matters of judgment when that judgment has been subjected to the political tensions of the day. The California Democratic Council has traditionally expressed concern for possible infringements upon justice and civil liberty. The CDC calls upon the President of the United States to review again the facts in the Sobell case and take necessary action to secure ultimate justice."

RESOLUTION passed by California Democratic Council meeting attended by 3,000 delegates

"Convinced of the innocence of Morton Sobell, now imprisoned for more than eight years and condemned to a thirty year sentence on charges which to many legal authorities appear flimsy, to say the least, we the undersigned of independent political views and in the interest of justice and humanity only, beg you to exercise your Presidential prerogative of clemency and return Morton Sobell to his family."

"A number of eminent American jurists and clergymen have raised questions as to whether Morton Sobell was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted and as to whether, if guilty, he has not already been sufficiently punished. The Central Conference of American Rabbis, therefore, respectfully urges the President of the United States to review the case, to determine whether there are sufficient grounds either to recommend a new trial or to exercise executive clemency."

RESOLUTION of the 1960 Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Detroit, Mich.

"We agree with the jury that Sobell -- who protests his innocence -- was guilty of espionage beyond a reasonable doubt. But we think that ten years is ample sentence for what Sobell actually did and that, having served the term, he should now be released. . . . In view of the fact that no atomic espionage was even alleged against him, and that the sole witness testified merely to unsuccessful attempts to procure information, we think that Sobell should now be released from prison."

NATHAN GLAZER, SIDNEY HOOK  
MORTON SOBELL COMMITTEE

## An Appeal by JAMES T. FARRELL

EMINENT AMERICAN AUTHOR

I have the great fear and the sick feeling that an innocent man is in prison. I have the conviction that the release of Morton Sobell can only do good, and not harm. Everything I have so far learned about him supports my conviction and I think it seems to me but mere minimum justice now, to restore him to life and to the kind and decent family which loves him.

In 1960, we must speak, and with all urgency. We must cry out, we must demand that no possible instance of "man's inhumanity to man" be tolerated. It is our duty and our honor that we spare no effort for the protection of the innocent, and that in any case of injustice the quickest possible action be taken to rectify this most terrible of evils. Unless justice and compassion and Walt Whitman's love be as normal as our daily life we are sunken far below all of the general principles which proclaim the freedom of man. . .

It is for us to remember and to preserve all of the noble work of those who have gone, but who have given of their brain, bone and muscle, their blood, to the creation of the dignity of man. It is for us to defend and preserve and to extend that dignity, and when we ourselves are anonymous dust, to leave our memory in future for those who will redeem the injustices of the centuries.

Let us now begin to say and to make real with all our power that justice is a new-born idea. I ask for and I clasp hands with you in calling

Dear Friend:

As Morton Sobell's mother and wife, we ask with all our hearts that you help us.

Our family ordeal has lasted more than 10 years. But our hopes are high because of the mounting appeals by thousands upon thousands of Americans.

We have an unshakable faith that if the public continues to speak out, Morton's freedom will become a reality. Your simple act of writing a letter to our President will let him know that the American people want to see Morton freed.

Please write today to:  
The President of  
the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

We thank you for acting in the cause of justice and humanity.

Sincerely yours,

*Rose Sobell*

Mrs. Rose Sobell

*Helen Sobell*

Mrs. Morton Sobell

Co-Chairmen  
Committee to Secure Justice  
for Morton Sobell  
940 Broadway, New York 10, N. Y.

## STATEMENT

BY DISTINGUISHED THEOLOGIANs AND LAW PROFESSORS AFTER  
INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE FACTS IN THE SOBELL CASE

THE UNDERSIGNED are American citizens who believe that the sentence of Morton Sobell should now be commuted. Sobell was convicted of conspiring with others to transmit to the Soviet Union writings and information relating to the national defense of the United States and was sentenced on April 5, 1951 to serve thirty years in Federal Prison.

Morton Sobell was tried with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were convicted of espionage in connection with the atomic bomb and who were sentenced to death and later executed. Sobell, however, was never implicated in any way with involvement in the atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted. This fact was confirmed by the judge who sentenced Sobell.

This statement is not concerned with the Rosenberg conviction. The undersigned are and consistently have been convinced anti-Communists. None are associated with any organization, committee or group of any kind concerned either with the case of the Rosenbergs or that of Sobell, nor are any of the undersigned connected in any way with Morton Sobell or any members of his family. After study of the case, we believe that the following considerations warrant a commutation of the very heavy sentence Sobell is now serving.

1. Sobell was never implicated with atomic espionage for which the Rosenbergs were convicted.
2. The charges against Sobell, supported mainly by the testimony of one man, Max Elitcher, were that he had solicited information, and had on one occasion taken something which looked like a can of film to Julius Rosenberg. No specific item of information supposed to have been secured by him or transmitted by him to anyone else is specified in the record. The case against him, therefore, is vague in content and slender in proof. The possibility that a trip to Mexico which he and his family took should be construed as flight cannot be ignored, though it is subject to various interpretations.
3. Whether or not the judge and prosecution made sufficient efforts to provide a fair trial, we ought to recognize that the emotions surrounding the trial of the Rosenbergs and the fact that Sobell's case was tried with theirs made it difficult to separate the two cases and to recognize the very different character of the two charges and the evidence introduced to support them respectively.
4. Sobell has already served, with good conduct, nearly eight years in prison, six of them in Alcatraz.
5. As Americans we are fully aware of the threat of communism to our freedom and way of life. Any attack on that freedom from without or within must be resisted. Nevertheless, one of the factors which makes that freedom so precious is its capacity to practice a disciplined and humane administration of justice precisely in those cases where emotions are aroused which make it difficult to remain objective about the merits of a specific case. We believe a commutation of the Sobell sentence would demonstrate our national faith in that freedom.

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Union Theological Seminary  
New York City

GERHARD O. W. MUELLER

EDMOND CAHN  
Professor of Law  
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PAUL RAMSEY

JOHN C. BENNETT  
Dean and Professor of Ethics  
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Administrative Leader